DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

MARCH 2016

PREPARED BY: DITAU GEO-INFORMATICS SOLUTIONS
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SECTION ONE – BACKGROUND</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>VISION FOR DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>METHODOLOGY</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>DRDPs AND RURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>PURPOSE OF DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR LIMPOPO</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.1</td>
<td>An Instrument for Coordinating Rural Strategic Spatial Planning</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.2</td>
<td>An instrument for Rural Economic Transformation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.3</td>
<td>To promote Land Use Management &amp; Productivity</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.4</td>
<td>To promote Rural-Urban Functionality</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.5</td>
<td>To align District Rural Development Plans with Existing Planning Instruments</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>AGRI-PARK AS AN ANCHOR FOR AGRARIAN REFORM</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SECTION TWO – STUDY AREA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SECTION THREE – POLICY &amp; LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>NATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td>National Development Plan 2030 (NDP)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2</td>
<td>Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>New Growth Path (NGP)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4</td>
<td>Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) – 2014 to 2019</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.5</td>
<td>Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework (CRDP) – 2009</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.6</td>
<td>Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>PROVINCIAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy 2011 (PGDS)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Limpopo Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan (PEGDP) 2009-2014</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2015-2019</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4</td>
<td>Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework (SDF) 2007</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>DISTRICT AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.1</td>
<td>Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) 2013/14</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.2</td>
<td>Vhembe District Municipality Spatial Development Framework (SDF)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.3</td>
<td>Vhembe District Municipality LED Strategy</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION FOUR – SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

4.2 KEY ECONOMIC DRIVERS

4.2.1 Agriculture

4.2.2 Tourism

4.2.3 Mining

4.2.4 Enterprise Development

4.2.5 Rural Industrialization

4.3 LAND REFORM

4.4 ENVIRONMENT

4.4.1 Sites of Cultural, Heritage, Religious and Historical interests

4.4.2 Nature Reserves and Game Parks

4.4.3 Protected Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

4.4.4 Wetlands

4.4.5 Topography

4.4.6 Water Resources (Hydrology, Water Catchment Areas)

4.4.7 Vegetation

4.4.8 Biodiversity

4.4.9 Climate

4.4.10 Air Quality

4.4.11 Forestry

4.5 SWOT ANALYSIS

4.5.1 Makhado Local Municipality

4.5.2 Musina Local Municipality

4.5.3 Mutale Local Municipality

4.5.4 Thulamela Local Municipality

4.6 KEY FINDINGS FROM IN LOCO/GROUND TRUTHING INSPECTIONS

4.7 SPATIAL DEPICTION OF THE NICHE COMMODITIES

4.8 SYNTHESIS
SECTION FIVE - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES ........................................ 81

5.1 OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY & COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ... 81
  5.1.1 Development Action 1: Utilize of farms and optimizing the potential of FPSUs and Agri-Parks ........................................................................................................ 81
  5.1.2 Development Action 2: Water Infrastructure ........................................................................ 82
  5.1.3 Development Action 3: Promoting micro-enterprises and survival strategies in rural villages and households through supporting of small scale farmers. ..................... 82
  5.1.4 Development Action 4: Addressing the effects of climate change on agriculture ................ 82

5.2 OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL ECONOMY AND INVESTMENT IN RURAL REVITALISATION ........................................................................................................ 83
  5.2.1 Development Action 1: Investment in Physical Infrastructure ............................................. 83
  5.2.2 Development Action 2: Promoting the Renewal of Rural Towns and Villages .................... 83
  5.2.3 Development Action 3: Completion of existing stalled Rural Development-Oriented Projects .................................................................................................................. 84
  5.2.4 Development Action 4: Build up the small scale mining industry in VDM ............................ 84
  5.2.5 Development Action 5: Build on the established road network in the region ...................... 84
  5.2.6 Development Action 6: Establishment of a technology park .............................................. 85
  5.2.7 Development Action 7: Development of a renewable energy research park ....................... 85

5.3 OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTING INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ........................................ 85
  5.3.1 Development Action 1: Reduction of service delivery backlogs ........................................ 85

5.4 OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVING TOURISM COMPETITIVENESS ...................................................... 86
  5.4.1 Development Action 1: Promotion of Vhembe region and its attractions through harnessing the cultural heritage and development corridors ........................................... 86

5.5 OBJECTIVE 5: REVITALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MINING ....................................... 86
  5.5.1 Development Action 1: Revitalisation of existing mines .................................................... 86
  5.5.2 Development Action 2: Conducting of researches and feasibility studies for the development of mines ........................................................................................................ 87

5.6 OBJECTIVE 6: CONSERVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ................................................. 87
  5.6.1 Development Action 1: Preservation of the natural environment ...................................... 87

SECTION SIX – SPATIAL RATIONALE ....................................................................................... 88

6.1 DISTRICT APPROACH TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT ................................................................ 88

6.2 IDENTIFICATION OF FUNCTIONAL REGIONS ....................................................................... 88

6.3 AGRI-HUBS, FPSUS & THEIR SPATIAL RELATIONSHIP TO INTERVENTION AREAS .... 97

SECTION SEVEN - VHEMBE FUNCTIONAL REGIONS AND INTERVENTION AREAS .. 99

7.1 DFR 1: MUSINA AREA UNDER THE MUSINA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY .................................... 101
7.2 DFR 2: LOUIS TRICHARDT, ELIM, WATERVAL UNDER MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY............104

7.2.1 Intervention Area 1: Elim/Waterval, Mpheni and other villages in the vicinity..............108

7.3 DFR 3: THOHOYANDOU, VUWANI -TSHILAMBA ARE WITHIN THE THULAMELA, MAKHADO AND MUTALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES .................................................................113

7.3.1 Intervention Area 4: Khubvi, Mukula, Makonde, Shadani .........................................115

7.3.2 Intervention Area 5: Vuwani Area and the surrounding...........................................120

7.3.3 Vuwani Service Region ..........................................................................................121

7.4 DFR 4: MALAMULELE-TSHAULU-GABA AREA WITHIN THE THULAMELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY .......125

7.4.1 Intervention Area 2 : Malamulele and Xigalo surrounded by the smaller villages of Mititi, Mphambo, Mahonisi Housing and Others .................................................................127

7.4.2 Intervention Area 3: Xikundu, Mhinga, Gaba, Matiyani, Lambani and Tshifudi ..........133

7.5 DFR 5: NWANEDI FUNCTIONAL REGION ..................................................................140

7.5.1 Intervention Area 6: Domboni, Matavhela, Malale, Tshipise, Bennde Mutale, Dzanani, Dopeni, Sane, Mudimeli and other Villages. .......................................................144

8 SECTION EIGHT – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ..................................................................155

8.1 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS CATEGORISATION .......................157

8.2 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FRAMEWORK ................................................................180

9 CONCLUSION ........................................................................................................183
LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1: GROWTH POINTS ........................................................................................................34
TABLE 2: THULAMELA STRATEGIES ......................................................................................37
TABLE 3: MUTALE PRIORITY AREAS ....................................................................................39
TABLE 4: MUSINA PRIORITY AREAS ....................................................................................41
TABLE 5 AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL ..................................................................................53
TABLE 6: OTHER PARKS AND RESERVES .............................................................................57
TABLE 7: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS CATEGORISATION ....157
TABLE 8 PROPOSED DRDP PROJECTS ................................................................................159
TABLE 9: IN-LOCO PROJECTS IDENTIFIED .........................................................................160
TABLE 10: PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FROM THE SYNTHESIS OF ISSUES .........................164

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1: DRDP’S IN CONTEXT ............................................................................................16
FIGURE 2: NATURE OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY AND PRODUCTION OF HOUSEHOLDS ....45
FIGURE 3: HOUSEHOLDS BY GENDER OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD AND AGE COHORT ..........46
FIGURE 4: LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND INCOMES OF AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLD HEADS .47
FIGURE 5: AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY ..................................48
FIGURE 6: AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS OWNING LIVESTOCK ONLY .........................49
FIGURE 7: AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS OWNING CATTLE AND SHEEP .....................50
FIGURE 8: GOAT AND PIG PRODUCTION IN VHEMBE DISTRICT .......................................51
FIGURE 9: WATER ACCESS AND SOURCES IN VHEMBE DISTRICT ..................................52
FIGURE 10: MULTI STAKEHOLDER MAPPING ....................................................................181
# LIST OF MAPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>VHEMBE DISTRICT LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MEAN ANNUAL RAINFALL</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MAX ANNUAL TEMPERATURE</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>POPULATION GROWTH/DECLINE &amp; EXISTING PROJECTS</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>HEALTH FACILITIES &amp; POLICE STATIONS:</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SCHOOLS</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>INDIGENT HOUSEHOLDS</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NICHE PRODUCTS</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ACCESSIBILITY INDEX</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>POPULATION GROWTH AND DECLINE AND PROJECTS</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>ACTIVE MINES AND MINING COMMODITIES</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SLLI AGRICULTURE</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>VHEMBE AGRI HUB AND FPSUS</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>FUNCTIONAL REGIONS &amp; INTERVENTION AREAS</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>FUNCTIONAL REGION 1</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>FUNCTIONAL REGION 2</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>INTERVENTION AREA 1</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>FUNCTIONAL REGION 3</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>INTERVENTION AREA 4</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>VUWANI SERVICE REGION AND FUNCTIONAL REGIONS/ INTERVENTION AREAS</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>INTERVENTION AREA 5</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>FUNCTIONAL REGION 4</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>INTERVENTION AREA 2</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>MALAMULELE FPSU.</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>INTERVENTION AREA 3</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>NEW ARCHER FACTORY IN TSHIFUDI AREA.</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>FUNCTIONAL REGION 5</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>INTERVENTION AREA 6</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>IDENTIFIED IN LOCO PROJECTS</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>AGRI PARK AND FPSUS WITH VUWANI</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRONYM</td>
<td>EXPLANATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AH</td>
<td>Agri Hub Unit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Agri-Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APAP</td>
<td>Agricultural Policy Action Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASP</td>
<td>Comprehensive Rural Support Programmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COGTA</td>
<td>Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRDP</td>
<td>Comprehensive Rural Development Programme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRDRL</td>
<td>Department of Rural Development and Land Reform</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRDP</td>
<td>District Rural Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPSU</td>
<td>Farmer Production Support Unit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGP</td>
<td>Gross Geographic Product</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVA</td>
<td>Gross Value Add</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Integrated Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED</td>
<td>Local Economic Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEDP</td>
<td>Local Economic Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPD</td>
<td>Limpopo Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFMA</td>
<td>Municipal Finance Management Act</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTSF</td>
<td>Medium Term Strategic Framework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDP</td>
<td>National Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGP</td>
<td>New Growth Path</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEGDP</td>
<td>Provincial Growth and Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGDP</td>
<td>Provincial Growth Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGDS</td>
<td>Provincial Growth and Development Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSDF</td>
<td>Provincial Spatial Development Framework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REID</td>
<td>Rural Enterprise and Industry Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETM</td>
<td>Rural Economic Transformation Model</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RID</td>
<td>Rural Infrastructure Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUMC</td>
<td>Rural Urban Market Centre Unit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDF</td>
<td>Spatial Development Frameworks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLLi</td>
<td>Strategically Located Land Index</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLUMA</td>
<td>Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDM</td>
<td>Vhembe District Municipality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 SECTION ONE – BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The Vhembe District Rural Development Plan (DRDP) 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 Vhembe as well as other District Municipalities in the country 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 Vhembe 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 ongoing land reform processes as well as land tenure systems that continue to evolve.

Whilst Agricultural Development is the main Sector, the DRDP also takes into account contributions made by various other sectors within the Vhembe region. These include

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

The diversification of the district’s economy is therefore intrinsically dependent on the interplay between ‘sunset’ sectors (e.g. manufacturing and mining) as well as ‘sunrise sectors’ (e.g. 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 revitalisation of rural towns and villages; and
- Promote competitive and sustainable rural businesses.
1.2 Vision for District Rural Development Plans

All the strategic spatial plans as well as sector plans for Limpopo point to the fact that agriculture is at the heart of rural economic transformation. The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) as well as the Agriculture Policy Action Plan (APAP) for instance attest to the fact that rural areas are faced with the 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, Vhembe, Capricorn, 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 and espoused in the NDP, the 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 and 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:

Limpopo Province should be characterised by sustainable, integrated, competitive and inclusive rural economies that fully benefit local communities. 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 health as basic amenities, including housing, water, education and food security.

Vhembe District is ideally positioned for easy access to African markets, its proximity to Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana provides the investor with a powerful platform from which to access the South African region and to contribute as well as benefit from the New Partnership for Africa's Development. There are many restitution claims in this district, concentrated mainly in the south east and eastern parts of the district. The trade sector has been the fastest growing. This reflects the existence of a strong demand for goods and services and the growth of the tourism industry. If well supported, the agricultural sector can
help in absorbing new entrants in the labour market. This is because by its own nature agriculture is labour intensive. The VDM has good production of citrus, avocado, macadamia, banana, litchi, garlic including beef. Expanding the market for grain milling products in SADC would be one avenue of increasing the market. With Musina being a main economic hub as it offers linkages to countries north of S A, Vhembe District can be realised as an economic potential for trade and commerce. The N1 national road is the transport corridor between South Africa and Zimbabwe through the Beitbridge border post. In addition, alternative uses for oilseeds and maize through bio-diesel and bio-ethanol can provide another important opportunity to expand the domestic market for grains. Moreover in the interest of promoting economic diversity and complexity, the DRDPs will attempt to unlock other sectors such as tourism, mining and manufacturing in Limpopo.

In realising the aforementioned vision(s), district municipalities in Limpopo would have to ensure that DRDPs are meaningfully aligned to existing district strategic spatial plans, notably the district Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).¹ 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

The district rural development plans for Vhembe 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, the economic development of Vhembe’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.

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.

¹ The crystallisation of Limpopo’s rural development vision is informed by various vision statements embedded in a range of strategic spatial plans, notably district and local IDPs, SDFs and LED strategies.
Formulated 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’. 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, demographical, 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.

In addition, this plan was formulated through the distillation and synthesis of the following sources of information:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. In loco/ground truthing inspections: Inspections/site visits were conducted in all the district municipalities. 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 DRDPs and Rural Economic Transformation

From the discussions held with DRDLR as well as 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.
- Promoting agricultural based 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.
- Promoting 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 Outcomes 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; and
• Promoting 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; and
• 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 ignore the vulnerability of this sector to climate change, drought as well as 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 a), collaborate with established ones and b), contribute to the growth of rural economies.

Investment in education as well as entrepreneurship also forms an integral part of the Limpopo DRDPs. The 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. So, rural development is predicated not only on developing places, but also 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 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 (LED), Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and Agricultural development plans for instance, will find a more nuanced expression within District RDPs.

1.6.2 An instrument for Rural Economic Transformation

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 DRDPs will attempt to unlock other sectors such as tourism, mining and manufacturing in Limpopo.
To promote 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.

To promote 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.

To align 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 three levels.
of government. These include the National Development Plan (NDP), the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP), the Limpopo Development Plan (2015-19) as well as 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 Vhembe 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 Agri-Parks (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) – the RUMC has three main purposes;
  - Linking and contracting rural, urban and international markets through contracts;
  - Acts as a holding-facility, releasing produce to urban markets based on seasonal trends;
  - 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 its 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. Already, the government has set aside over R2 billion for kick-starting the Agri-Parks programme across the country. The objectives of Agri-Parks are as follows:

- Promote growth of the smallholder sector by contributing to the 300 000 new small-scale producers, as well as to the 145 000 new jobs in agro-processing by the year 2020 (as set out in the NGP);
- Promote the skills of and support to small-holder farmers through the provision of capacity building, mentorship, farm infrastructure, extension services, production inputs and mechanization inputs;
- Enable producer ownership of the majority of Agri-Parks equity (70%), with the state and commercial interests holding minority shares (30%);
- Bring under-utilized land (especially communal land and land reform farms) into full production over the next three years, and expand irrigated agriculture; and
- Contribute to 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 Vhembe, the location for the Agri-Hub site has been identified in Musina. 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 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

Vhembe is one of the five districts Limpopo Province established in 2000 in accordance with the local government municipal Act No. 117 of 1998. The district consists of four local municipalities namely:

- Makhado Local Municipality
- Musina Local Municipality
- Mutale Local Municipality
- Thulamela Local Municipality

Vhembe District Municipality (VDM) is located on the North of Limpopo province. The VDM covers an area approximately 25 597 km², with Makhado Local Municipality covering the majority of the area with ± 8 300 km², followed by Musina Local Municipality covering ±7 577 km², Thulamela Local Municipality covering approximately 5 834 km² and lastly Mutale Local Municipality occupying approximately 3 886 km² of the district’s area.

The VDM shares its borders with Zimbabwe and Botswana towards the northwest and Mozambique in the southeast through the Kruger National Park. The Limpopo River Valley forms the border between its international neighbours. Vhembe includes areas that previously fell under Venda and Gazankulu Bantustan’s administration.
3 SECTION THREE – POLICY & LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

There are national, provincial and municipal policy frameworks in place that will influence and guide rural development planning for the Vhembe 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.

Vhembe 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 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)
- Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP)

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 2030\(^2\). 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;

\(^2\) National Development Plan 2030
• Citizens active in their own development;
• Faster and more inclusive economic growth;
• Building capabilities;
• A capable and development 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.

With the overall objective being to create an additional 643 000 direct jobs and 326 000 indirect jobs in the agriculture, agro processing and related sectors by 2030 thereby placing agriculture as a driving force behind this priority.³

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 the growth of irrigated agriculture and land production;
• Providing basic services that enable people to develop capabilities to take advantage of opportunities around the country, 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 Vhembe District Rural Development Plan will align the Vhembe 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 DRDP’s are guided by four principles of spatial planning as articulated in SPLUMA. These include spatial resilience, spatial justice, spatial equity and spatial transformation.

³ National Development Plan 2030
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.

### 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 over-arching objective is to create 5 million new jobs between 2010 and 2020⁴.

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 as well as the production of inputs, and indirectly by improving efficiency across the economy;
- Targeting more labour-absorbing activities across the main economic sectors – the agricultural and mining value chains, manufacturing and services;
- Taking advantage of new opportunities in the 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 the agricultural value chain, is seen as a key priority for job creation in rural areas with opportunities for employment creation through smallholder schemes and the processing and sale of agricultural products⁵. The Vhembe 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 Government’s strategic plan for the 2014-2019 electoral term. It reflects the commitments made in the election manifesto of the

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⁴ New Growth Path: Framework
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.

The MTSF is structured around 14 priority outcomes, which cover the focus areas identified in the NDP. These are made up of the 12 outcomes, which were the focus of the 2009-2014 administration, as well as two additional (covering 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. Safety and Security
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, 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 (LDP).

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5 Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019
3.1.5 Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework (CRDP) – 2009

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework (CRDP) forms part of 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

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 the establishment of rural business initiatives, agro-industries, co-operatives and the 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 Vhembe DRDP will provide a 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

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6 The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework - July 2009
• 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)

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.

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8 Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy 2004-2014
The Limpopo PGDS sets out five key economic development goals, with related strategic objectives for the province\(^9\), namely:

- **Objective one**: The need to improve the quality of life in Limpopo aligned to outcome 2 of the MTSF. This includes the elimination of poverty and unemployment, and 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 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

\(^9\) Ibid
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, the private sector and all organs of civil society to make hard choices in pursuit of the priorities encapsulated in the MTSF\textsuperscript{10}.

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 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 Vhembe District Municipality include:

- **Objective two, growing the economy of the province**: proposed interventions include industrial development programme for priority growth sectors including the 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.

\textsuperscript{10} Limpopo Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan 2009-2014
In order to ensure that the VDM 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.11

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

- Outline the contribution from 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 the constructive participation of private sector business and organised labour towards the achievement of provincial growth and development objectives; and
- Encourage citizens to be active in promoting higher standards of living in their communities.

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

11 Limpopo Development Plan 2015-2019
• 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, including Musina and Makhado in Vhembe.

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:

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

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:

12 Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework 2007
Formulate a spatial framework which will guide and encourage equitable distribution of investment in terms of a functional settlement hierarchy;

To achieve spatially balanced development across the 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

The successful integration of 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 Vhembe 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:

- Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP)
- Vhembe District Municipality (SDF)
- Vhembe District Municipality LED Strategy
- Thulamela Local Municipality IDP;
- Makhado Local Municipality IDP;
- Mutale Local Municipality IDP; and
- Musina Local Municipality IDP

#### 3.3.1 Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) 2013/14

The vision of the Vhembe District Municipality is to be a “Developmental Municipality focusing on Sustainable Service Delivery and Socio-Economic Development towards an
Equal Society”. This is supported by the deliverables of the Vhembe District Integrated Development Plan.

The Vhembe DM IDP seeks to align and integrate with policies at the national and provincial level through the following cluster level strategic priorities:\textsuperscript{13}

- **Economic Cluster** – Including Enterprise Development (SMME’s) and spatial planning and development;
- **Infrastructure Cluster** – Including access to basic services (e.g. water, sanitation, electricity) and infrastructure (e.g. housing);
- **Governance and Administration Cluster**: Including good governance and public participation;
- **Social Cluster** – Including the provision of primary healthcare services; and
- **Justice Cluster** - Provision of safety and security.

Each priority is supported by envisaged outputs and key programmes for the VDM which, with the right levels of investment will provide opportunities for rural development related to agriculture amongst others.

Included in the Vhembe DM IDP is an outlines of the strategic opportunities the DM seeks to explore including:\textsuperscript{14}

- Natural tourism attractions, tourism attraction centers & heritage sites;
- Water catchments and Dams;
- Potential for alternative energy;
- Existence of cooperatives;
- Mining; and
- Agriculture

The Vhembe District IDP acts as a broad business plan for the Vhembe 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.

\[\text{--------------------------}\]

\textsuperscript{13} Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid
3.3.2 Vhembe District Municipality Spatial Development Framework (SDF)\textsuperscript{15}

The Vhembe District Municipality SDF is seen as 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 Vhembe SDF outlines the spatial rationale for the district and highlights a settlement hierarchy based on the classification of individual settlements (i.e. towns and villages) in which the hierarchy is characterized as follows\textsuperscript{16}:

- First order settlements (Growth Points) which are further divided into three categories
  - Provincial growth points
  - District Growth Points
  - Municipal growth points
- Second Order Settlements (Population Concentration Point);
- Third Order Settlement (Local Service Points);
- Fourth Order Settlement (Villages Services Areas);
- Fifth Order Settlement (Remaining Small Settlements);

The SDF outlines these settlements for the Vhembe district in the table below:

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\caption{Growth Points}
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|l|l|l|}
\hline
Growth Point & Musina & Makhado & Mutale & Thulamela \\
\hline
\textbf{Provincial Growth Point} & Musina (declared special economic zone) & Makhado & & Thohoyandou \\
\textbf{District Growth Point} & & Elim and Waterval & & Sibasa and Malamule \\
\textbf{Municipal Growth Point} & Vuwani/Dzanani/ Hlanganani/Bungeni & Tshilamba & Tshandama & Mhinga \\
\textbf{Local Service Point} & Tshipise & Vleifontein Waterpoort Valdesi Oliphantshoek Mamvuka & & Lwamondo Dzwerani Phaphazela Xikundu \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\textsuperscript{15} Adapted from the Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14

\textsuperscript{16} Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
3.3.3 Vhembe District Municipality LED Strategy

The Vhembe District Municipality’s Local Economic Development vision is to be “The legendary cultural hub in the southern hemisphere and a catalyst for agro- and tourism development”. The municipality’s LED focuses on the reduction of unemployment and promotion of economic growth and outlines how the municipality aims to reduce unemployment by creating jobs through supporting SMME’s and offering SMME training.

With this background, the Vhembe DM LED strategy therefore aims to provide the VDM with the following:

- A strategically focused local economic development profile;
- Methods to enhance co-ordination, integration and participation in local economic development;
- Learning tool/s for the sharing of lessons learnt from the project;
- A local economic development plan; and
- Sustainable and commercially viable business opportunities appropriately packaged for investment.

The LED Strategy further states that the VDM’s economic growth potential lies in Agriculture, Tourism and Mining, and goes on to outline programs that are designed to reduce poverty and unemployment by providing resources and/or the information on how to access resources to the public.

The Vhembe LED identified a number of strategies that the District will employ to enhance economic development in the district, these include:

- **Industrial recruitment** – attracting investment in the form of new companies to the area;
- **Place marketing** - promotion and advertising of the Vhembe area with the intention of encouraging businesses and people to relocate there;

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17 Adapted from the Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
18 http://led.co.za/municipality/vhembe-district-municipality
19 Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
20 Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2005/6
• **SMME promotions and support** – including creating conducive conditions for SMME’s to grow;
• **Community based economic development** – creating a self-reliant community;
• **Export promotion and international trade** – selling products to anywhere outside the municipal boundary and import/export to other countries; and
• **Business retention and expansion** – to ensure existing businesses do not choose to relocate.

Based on the outline of the VDM LED strategy, agriculture stands as one of the region’s main opportunities, and with support will continue to play a strong role in the district economy.

### 3.3.4 Thulamela Local Municipality IDP 2013/14

The Thulamela Local Municipality is the eastern most local Municipality in the Vhembe District. The Kruger National Park forms its boundary in the east, while sharing the boarders with Mutale Municipality in the north east and Makhado Municipality in the south west. The Municipality also shares boarders with Greater Giyani municipality from Mopani District in the east. The Thulamela LM covers vast track of land which are mainly tribal, and has Thohoyandou is its political, administrative and commercial centre.\(^{21}\)

The Thulamela LM IDP outlines the challenges the municipality is currently facing; some of which are summarized as follows\(^{22}\):

- Limited land for future development – especially in Thohoyandou;
- Water scarcity;
- Access to basic service delivery – including electricity, roads and water; and
- Local economic development – including the creation of jobs and provision of support;

With priority strategies outlined in the table below:

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\(^{21}\) Thulamela Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14

\(^{22}\) Ibid
### TABLE 2: THULAMELA STRATEGIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance and administration cluster</th>
<th>Justice Cluster</th>
<th>Infrastructure cluster</th>
<th>Social Cluster</th>
<th>Economic Cluster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Viability, revenue generation and management</td>
<td>Policing services and satellite offices</td>
<td>Water and sanitation services</td>
<td>Health facilities and services</td>
<td>Agriculture and rural development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review and development of policies</td>
<td>Traffic law enforcement and licensing</td>
<td>Electricity and energy sources</td>
<td>Waste management and cleaning</td>
<td>SMME development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills development</td>
<td>Road and storm water management</td>
<td>Education facilities and training</td>
<td>Trading and retail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Participation, empowerment and community development</td>
<td>Land and housing</td>
<td>Welfare facilities and training</td>
<td>Industrial development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud and risk management</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sports and recreation facilities</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.3.5 Makhado Local Municipality IDP 2012/13

The Makhado Local Municipality is positioned to the south of the Vhembe DM, and is some 100km from the Zimbabwean border along the N1 route. It is bordered by Musina LM in the north, Mutale in the north east, and Thulamela LM to the east. Other local municipalities adjacent to the LM are Molemole and Blouberg Local Municipalities which form part of
Vhembe District Municipality, whilst Greater Giyani and Greater Letaba form part of the of the Mopani District Municipality\textsuperscript{23}.

The vision of the Makhado LM is “Moving towards a dynamic and progressive centre for socio economic development by 2025”. This can be seen as an ambitious target given that the LM is predominantly rural, with the majority of the population living in largely underdeveloped rural areas.

The main thrust of the Makhado LM IDP is to put in place strategies aimed at alleviating poverty, and it outlines the key challenges that the municipality is currently facing. These challenges are outlined below\textsuperscript{24}:

- Creation of an enabling environment for economic development;
- Creation of jobs;
- Poverty alleviation;
- Agriculture/Agro-processing & manufacturing;
- Promotion of Tourism;
- Promotion of Mining; and
- Supporting Small Micro and Medium Enterprises;

With priority strategies that include the following:

- Spatial and Local Economic Development – Including the creation of long term and sustainable rural development, tourism and marketing, development of a spatial rationale;
- Basic Service delivery and infrastructure planning – including water and sanitation, electricity and roads; and
- Good Governance and public participation – including communication, disaster management and protection services.

\textsuperscript{23} Makhado Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012/13 – 2016/17
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid
3.3.6 Mutale Local Municipality IDP 2014/15

The Mutale Local Municipality is situated in the far northeastern corner of the Vhembe District. The Kruger National Park forms the eastern boundary of Mutale LM, with the greater Limpopo River forming the northeastern boundary. The municipality shares borders with Musina Local Municipality and Zimbabwe on the North, Mozambique on the East, Makhado Local Municipality to the west and Thulamela Local Municipality to the south.

Agriculture, mining and tourism are the main sources of rural economic development in the Mutale LM, however there are various challenges that hinder their development25:

- Land tenure system (Communal land rights);
- Accessibility to business opportunities;
- Lack of mechanization in agriculture;
- High input costs; and
- Communication between Traditional leaders, municipalities and other key stakeholders.

Despite these challenges, Mutale LM has identified a number of priority areas. Some of these are laid out in the table below26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Area</th>
<th>Development Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Service delivery and infrastructure</td>
<td>To ensure continuous improvement on basic service infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Local Economic Development</td>
<td>To ensure sustainable economic growth and improve livelihoods of the people through economic development including tourism, agriculture and mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Public participation and good governance</td>
<td>To promote a culture of accountability, participatory responsiveness, transparency and clean governance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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25 Mutale Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
26 Ibid
3.3.7 Musina Local Municipality IDP 2014/15

The Musina Local Municipality is located in the very North of the Limpopo Province, bordering Botswana and Zimbabwe. It is bounded by Makhado Local Municipality to the south and Mutale local Municipality to the east. Musina is also bounded in the southwest by the Local Municipality of Blouberg, which falls within the Vhembe District Municipality.

The LM is largely rural in nature, with the bulk of land in the municipality being used for agricultural purposes ranging from cattle farming, arable farming and game farming. The urban settlements only constitute up to 0.08% of land cover.\(^{27}\)

Agriculture and mining are the main sources of rural economic development in the Musina LM, with a high degree of concentration of employment in the agricultural sector (mainly small scale and subsistence agriculture). This high concentration of employment in a single sector of the local economy is a cause for concern, as the Municipality does not have any other source of income to cushion the impacts of any negative changes that could occur in the Agricultural sector, therefore creating a strong need to diversify opportunities for employment.\(^{28}\)

There are various challenges that hinder development in the Musina LM. These include:

- Land claims – more than a third of the municipality is under claim;
- Shortage of job opportunities and job creation;
- Lack of Infrastructure maintenance; and
- Water demand management;

Despite these challenges, Musina LM has identified a number of priority areas. Some of these are laid out in the table below\(^{29}\).

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\(^{27}\) Musina Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15

\(^{28}\) Ibid

\(^{29}\) Ibid
### TABLE 4: MUSINA PRIORITY AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPA</th>
<th>Priority Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Service delivery and infrastructure development</td>
<td>Including a focus on water delivery, waste management, roads and electricity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Local Economic Development</td>
<td>Including a focus on alleviating unemployment and poverty, security and spatial planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Public participation and good governance</td>
<td>Including a focus on communication and participation of the community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.3.8 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, the Limpopo Province and the Vhembe 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.

Vhembe, as 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.

In developing Vhembe DRDP we shall seek to:

- Establish and outline a long term vision and direction for rural development in the district;
• Provide an overarching and coordinating framework for planning and rural development initiatives, within each of the local municipalities and across municipal boundaries;

• Provide a spatial context and justification for priority interventions;

• Develop institutional arrangement for an effective implementation of the Vhembe rural development plan;

• Align and integrate departmental strategic plans at a district level; and

• 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 Vhembe district rural development plan.

4.1 Demographics

Data acquired from the 2011 census indicates that the Vhembe District Municipality has an estimated population of 1 294 722 people, with Thulamela having the highest population of ± 618 462 people (48%), followed by Makhado with ± 516 031 people (40%), Mutale with 91 925 people (7%), and lastly Musina with ± 68 359 people (5%).

When looking at these figures over the period 2001 to 2011, they indicate a decline in the general population of the VDM. The district’s population growth declined from an approximate 1.8% in 2001 to 0.8% in 2011.

The literacy rate is relatively low in the district, with the poor quality of education compounded by dilapidated infrastructure, shortage of classrooms and administration blocks, lack of electricity, dilapidated and shortage of toilets. According to the Vhembe IDP 2012, approximately 220 schools are rundown and overcrowded, and 10 do not have electricity.

Vhembe District Municipality is predominantly rural in nature with approximately 97% of its population residing in rural areas. The provision of adequate water and basic services continues to be a problem within the VDM. There is a huge water and sanitation backlog especially in rural areas of the district. Vhembe DM sources its water supply from 11 dams which are located within the district namely: Nandoni, Nzhelele, Damani, Tshakuma, Mutshedzi, Vondo, Lupepe, Middle Letaba, Albasini, and, Mahonisi.

4.2 Key Economic Drivers

Economic succession is one of the main indicators of a progressive and growing district. There are different economic sectors that contribute to the economic succession any district municipality or even province itself. According to the VDM LED, Tourism, Mining, Enterprise Development and Agriculture are the four sectors that drive the districts economy.

The tertiary sector dominates the VDM, with a GVA contribution of approximately R34 billion in 2013. The key driver of the primary sector over the period 1995 to 2013 has been the growth in mining and quarrying which grew in GVA contribution from R452 million in 1995
(71% of primary sector GVA contribution) to R3.73 billion in 2013 (76% of primary sector GVA contribution).

The agricultural sector has been declining from 29% of the district GVA in 1995, to 24% of the district GVA in 2013. Despite this decline, agriculture still remains a strong sector in the VDM.

4.2.1 Agriculture

A significant portion of land in Vhembe is primarily used for grazing and cultivated land is concentrated in the South-western and Eastern borders of the district. There is a small portion of cultivated land in the North-Eastern part of the district along the border with Zimbabwe. From a total area of 25 597 km$^2$, 249 757ha of land is arable land, 1 227 079ha is declared marginal land and 661 859ha is declared non-arable.

The agricultural sector is divided into two types namely small scale commercial farming and large scale commercial farming, where majority of arable land is owned by white commercial farmers, and small scale farmers (which are predominantly black-owned) hold approximately 30% of arable land. There are two existing agricultural hubs in the district namely, Levubu and Nwanedi and the third hub, Nandoni is still at the planning stage. The VDM has good production of citrus, avocado, macadamia, banana, litchi and garlic.

High input costs, lack of ploughing machinery and stock theft remain a challenge within the agricultural sector. With regards to livestock farming, stock theft, high feed costs, diseases, lack of old chick supply, lack of proper marketing channels and the use of poor quality rams/buck are challenges experienced by small stock farming in the district. Drought, stock theft, lack of water supply, shortage of grazing camps and vandalism of fences mostly hinder large stock farming.

There are 42 grazing camps with a total area of 9 362 ha in the VDM. Goat production is one of the main economic activities in Makhado, Mutale and Musina municipalities. There is an estimated number of 77 516 Goats sold at ± R600 per goat which gives the livestock production industry a monetary value of ±R47 million.

Sheep are mainly reared by commercial farmers in Makhado and Musina with approximately 17 477 sheep sold at R800 per sheep. Other livestock includes pigs, poultry and cattle. There is an estimated 21 818 pigs, 204 poultry farms with a weekly production of 51 719 broilers and 180 673 cattle.

In the VDM, agricultural households range from between just over 10% of the total (Musina LM), and just over 50% of the total (Mutale LM). The actual activity recorded among
households in respective local municipalities in descending order is Mutale (54%), Thulamela (46%), Makhado (38%), and Musina (11%). The nature of agricultural activity by households’ shows a diversity of production mainly confined to livestock production, and major cropping in macadamia nuts, and citrus production. These perspectives are noted in the figures below.

Among agricultural households, those headed by females dominate across all local municipalities, with the exception of Musina local municipality where the male gender dominates (60% male). Delineating the district demographics further shows that 33% of these household heads are between the age cohorts 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 VDM, with approximately 78% of agricultural household heads with no schooling past grade 11. This confines them to the semi and unskilled as well as informal employment categories. This level of education makes the most viable economic activity with the best absorption being agriculture 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 85% of these agricultural households fall into the no income and R1-R38400 income levels. This creates challenges in enabling them achieve living wages that are sustainable, hence the need for social interventions to mitigate poverty. This perspective is noted in the figure below.
The main type of agricultural activity engaged in by agricultural households in the VDM is largely confined to animals only, crops only and mixed farming. Thulamela and Musina and Makhado are engaged predominantly in crop farming, whilst Mutale is more engaged in animals only farming. This is illustrated in the figure below.
Generally the VDM is mostly dominated by poultry ownership. Cattle ownership is highest in Makhado and Thulamela local municipalities. This is depicted in the figure below.
The scale of livestock production has a significant inference on the sophistication of livestock value chains in the VDM. In cattle production, subsistence farming (1-10 cattle) is the mainstay in the district, especially in Makhado and Thulamela local municipality. Commercial cattle production (+100) is highly minimal, with marginal production in Musina local municipality (7%). Sheep production is mainly done at the subsistence level throughout the district. Commercial sheep production is marginally practised in Makhado (5%) and
Thulamela (5%), with high smallholder production in Musina (62%). This is illustrated in the figure below.

Goat and pig production in the district is mainly at subsistence level. Pig production shows greater potential of commercial production in the district especially in Musina local municipality.
The agricultural capability of the district is highly dependent on the availability and consistency in supply of water. All of the local municipalities have generally good water reticulation with Makhado and Thulamela local municipalities experiencing the most challenges in water access. This is depicted in the figure below.

FIGURE 8: GOAT AND PIG PRODUCTION IN VHEMBE DISTRICT
FIGURE 9: WATER ACCESS AND SOURCES IN VHEMBE DISTRICT
### TABLE 5 AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Agricultural potential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macadamia nuts</td>
<td>Macadamia nuts value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrus production</td>
<td>Citrus farming value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red meat cluster value chain enhancement</td>
<td>Cattle value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key learnings from the agriculture sector situational analysis include:

- The VDM 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 creation of employment opportunities in the form of semi and unskilled employment.
- There is a need to harness commercial production to stimulate the development of value chains that are inclusive to emerging subsistence 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.

#### 4.2.2 Tourism

The Vhembe DM has real, authentic and mostly unspoilt resources. The scenery in Vhembe ranges from subtropical and mountainous to pristine bushveld and majestic Baobab trees. The VDM’s tourism potential is marketed through Makhado, Musina, Tourism Indaba,
Mukumbi Festival and many more. The Zion Christian Church in Nzhelele also boosts the district’s tourism development. However, the development of tourism in the district is hindered by amongst others, the operationalization of the Awelani eco-tourism project and the upgrading of roads to improve access to the tourism hotspots.

Vhembe is rich in cultural activities with approximately 70 cultural and heritage attractions. There are a number of activities taking place on an annual basis; these include the cycle centre challenge, land of legends marathon, two countries marathon, and the 4x4 challenges in Thate, Vondo and Tshipise.

Tourism facilities in the VDM include approximately 142 accommodation establishments where roughly 28% are graded 2 star, 23 graded 3 stars, 13 graded 4 star and 2 graded 5 star establishments. Most of these establishments are found in Makhado and Musina.

Other notable tourist attractions in the VDM include the Soutspanberg Birding Route which has approximately 38 bird watching sites and 540 different bird species. There are also 42 recreational parks in the region with 22 in Makhado, 2 in Thulamela, 10 in Mutale and 10 in Musina.

4.2.3 Mining

The mining sector contributes approximately 61% to Mutale’s GDP and contributed approximately 38% in Musina. Areas where there are mining operations in the Vhembe DM include:

- Copper in the Messina field;
- Tshipise Magnesite field;
- Mudimeli Coal Fields;
- Tshipise, Pafuri and Mopani coal fields;
- Beit bridge Complex (Limpopo belt which is host to minerals ranging from iron, diamonds, graphite, marble);
- Talc deposits;
- Gemstone deposits; and
- Clay and other dominant minerals used in brick making.

30 Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
Other mining productions include quarries, stone crushers, brick-making, salt production and sand deposits. The mining sector has contributed to employment of semi-skilled and unskilled labour in the VDM. From 1995 to 2007, the mining sector contribution to employment has fluctuated from 6%, 4%, and 5% in Musina local Municipality and from 20%, 18% and 5% in Mutale.

4.2.4 Enterprise Development

Various businesses exist and are distributed amongst different sectors within the four local municipalities of the VDM. There is uneven distribution of business enterprises in different sectors with the retail sector claiming the largest share in the local municipalities and district as a whole. The Majority of business enterprises are owned by individuals or families; hence their contribution to employment opportunities and income generation is minimal.

There were approximately 4 973 small and medium enterprises in the VDM in 2009, of which agricultural enterprises accounted for approximately 28%, mining for ± 1%, manufacturing ±5%, construction ± 4%, retail ± 45% and tourism ± 16%. The district is made up nine types of industries and they are as follows:

- Fruit and Vegetables constitute approximately 16%;
- Food 15%;
- Retail 9%;
- Supermarkets 8%;
- Motor spares 6%;
- hair salon 8%;
- Butchery 5%;
- Dress making and clothing 4%; and
- Liquor stores 3% and others 27%.

4.2.5 Rural Industrialization

- Rural Industrialization means encouraging location of large and small scale units away from urban areas or planned shifting of units from urban areas to rural areas.
- Rural industrialization aims at all-round development of an area as well as people living in such areas this can be realised through energy ict issues
- It requires capital investment
- Rural industries can take advantage of local resources by catering to local demand, avoid transaction cost.
- Employment generation
4.3 Land Reform
Like most rural districts, the VDM is faced with service delivery challenges as well as a lack of physical infrastructure. The majority of land in the district is privately owned thus, hindering the development process. Whilst land claims in the area threaten to destabilize development, the uncertainty of land ownership especially regarding state owned land and tribal owned land hinders development and future investments. For instance, there were approximately 1,042 land claims lodged in Makhado, 898 of those claims were settled and approximately 124 are outstanding. The same situation is faced in Musina, where approximately 351 land claims on farm subdivisions were lodged and ±21 on state land.

4.4 Environment
The Vhembe District Municipality has real, authentic, and largely un-spoilt resources. It has real people, real animals, real live culture and historical sites that hold the myths and legends of our ancestors and forefathers.

4.4.1 Sites of Cultural, Heritage, Religious and Historical interests
The Vhembe District Municipality is rich in cultural activities and has more than 70 heritage and cultural attractions. Various sports and recreation tourism activities are available in the district. The Soutpansberg Birding Route has 38 bird watching sites and 540 different species. This means one can see 90% of species in Vhembe of the total number of species of the Limpopo province.

The district offers a number of natural tourism attractions such as31:

*The Sacred Lakes Funduzi:* Possibly the most sacred spot of all in Venda as it is a supposedly enchanted body of water formed by a massive landslide that blocked the valley of the Mutale River. Venda people believe the lake is the home of the great Python God who cares for their crops and whom they must placate annually by pouring sacrificial beer on the water.

*The Phiphidi falls:* The falls are situated less than 15km away from Thohoyandou in the Mutshindudu River and are one of the cultural sites in the Vhembe region. The falls are named after a chieftains called Phiphidi, which means melodious. They are one of the many

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31 http://www.vhembe.gov.za
sacred places that the vhaVenda people have. According to the locals the falls are a place where one can talk to the ancestors and they are also known to be a sacred burial site for the Tshivhase royalty.

Other sites include:

- The Big Tree: The largest Baobab tree in South Africa. The tree has survived more than 3500 years;
- Tshiungani Caves; and
- Domboni/bushmen paintings.

4.4.2 Nature Reserves and Game Parks

There are a number of nature reserves and game parks in the Vhembe district, which include private game parks. The most famous of these is the Kruger National Park, which is one of the most prolific parks in Africa. The Kruger National Park is home to the Big 5 and stretches some 350 kilometers along the north of South Africa and along the Mozambican border. Other parks and reserves include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 6: OTHER PARKS AND RESERVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GAME PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapungwe National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans Merensky Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musina Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blouberg Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nwanedi Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langjan Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nzhelele Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leshaba Wilderness Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makuya Nature reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Lavin Nature reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maremani Nature reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mphaphuli Nature reserve</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

32 http://www.africanivoryroute.co.za/destinations
4.4.3 Protected Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

There are large extensive areas within the Vhembe District that are deemed conservation areas. Among others, the natural protected areas within the district include the Kruger National Park - Pafuri and Punda Maria Gates in the Mutale and Thulamela Local Municipalities respectively. Mutale is also the home of the Makuya Park, which is part of the Kruger National Park, and the Mapungubwe National Park in Musina LM is also known as a World Heritage Site.

UNESCO has declared the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve in Makhado municipality a conservation area. The Biosphere Reserve provides a habitat to a diverse number of species including those that are on the brink of extinction. The biodiversity of the Vhembe District is a strategic resource in nature, which provides the district communities with a lot of potential mostly in rural areas.\textsuperscript{33}

The following environmental problems have been identified in most parts of the Vhembe District Municipality:

- Drought;
- Overgrazing;
- Soil erosion;
- Deforestation;
- Desertification; and
- Air Pollution

One of the major environmental problems in the area is inappropriate agricultural methods, which leads to overgrazing and even desertification in places like Thulamela and Musina. Given the above environmental challenges faced in the Vhembe district, special care must be taken to preserve and protect those areas that may come under threat.

4.4.4 Wetlands

There are a variety of Wetlands in the Vhembe District, these include: the Sambandou Wetlands, Makuleke in Thulamela, which is one of the two RAMSAR, recognized Wetlands

\textsuperscript{33} Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
in the entire Limpopo Province. The most prominent features within the Makuleke wetlands include the Riverine Forests, Riparian Floodplain forests, and Floodplain Grasslands, River Channels and Flood-pans.

Flood-pans are of significant importance in this area as they hold water right into the very dry seasons, thus acting as refuge zone for wildlife and water birds during both winter and summer seasons (GTZ, 2008). Samples of water obtainable from rivers, dams and bore holes are routinely taken. Some rivers have been heavily polluted with sewage water.\(^\text{34}\)

4.4.5 Topography

The Vhembe District Municipality is characterised by both high-lying and low-lying areas. Its relief is divided into the lowveld in the east; the Limpopo valley in the north and northwest; the Soutpansberg region in the central part, and the Pietersburg plateau in the south. The altitude above sea level of the Vhembe District varies between 200m in the northeastern part of the area and over 1 500 m in the Soutpansberg mountain range.

The southwestern part of Vhembe District has altitudes that range from 800 m to 1200 m above sea level. The eastern part, which forms part of the lowveld, is low-lying and has altitudes starting at 300 m. The district’s northern, eastern, southwestern and southeastern parts are flat. The northeastern and southern parts have undulating relief. The northeastern part, at Dovho and Tshilamusi, has altitudes as low as 200 m above sea level, while the northwestern part has an altitude of about 400 m above sea level.\(^\text{35}\)

4.4.6 Water Resources (Hydrology, Water Catchment Areas)

The Vhembe District Municipality has a relatively limited supply of both ground and surface water. The area is comprised of a few catchments areas that are stressed by the high demand for water for development activities such as agriculture, human consumption and mining. Water management in the district faces the following challenges:

- Imbalance between the supply and demand for water;
- Alien plant invasion;
- Inappropriate land uses in the river valleys;

\(^{34}\) Ibid

\(^{35}\) Spatio-temporal dynamics in the provision of primary school education in Vhembe district, Limpopo, South Africa by Madzinge Fhatuwani Ellen Nembudani
- Impact of fertilizers and pesticides;
- Inadequate monitoring;
- Poorly managed sewage systems;
- High concentrations of pit latrines;
- Flood events and droughts

The Limpopo River System on the northern part of the district is considered as the lifeblood of the northern Vhembe semi-arid area. The Limpopo River is South Africa’s third most important river, which provides sustenance to the predominantly hot, and dry lands of the area through which it meanders. The Vhembe District is also possessed of the widely known Lake Fundudzi with a lot of cultural history. There is also the Mutale and Luvuvhu catchment area with a number of tributaries emanating from the catchments36.

4.4.7 Vegetation

As well as the strong environmental gradients experienced in the Vhembe District Municipality - as outlined in the topography section - climatic conditions in the northern (tropical), western (arid), southern (temperate) and eastern (lowveld) areas of the district influence and contribute to high levels of plant and animal biodiversity. Over 3000 species of plants comprising more than 1000 genera, can be found in the region representing a higher generic plant diversity than the Fynbos Biome37.

4.4.8 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 Vhembe District Municipality has an amazing biological diversity of flora and fauna. This rich biodiversity can be attributed to the regions bio geographical location and diverse topography. The district falls within the greater savanna biome, commonly known as the bushveld with some small pockets of grassland and forest biomes. These and other factors

36 Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
37 http://vhembebiosphere.org/sarchi/projects/drivers-biodiversity-vhembe-biosphere-reserve
have produced a unique assortment of ecological niches that are in turn occupied by a wide variety of plant and animal species. The area is comprised of the mountain fynbos, sacred forests as well as centuries old baobab trees\textsuperscript{38}.

The role of biodiversity in agricultural and natural ecosystems is to ensure food security and sustainable agricultural production through 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\textsuperscript{39}.

4.4.9 Climate

Across the globe, environmental stresses and major changes in climate conditions are influencing the lives and livelihoods of ordinary people and communities everywhere. This is apparent in the Vhembe District, with a prime example being the rainfall patterns which are highly variable. This disrupts a wide range of activities in the area such as rain-fed crop production, often with very little warning.

The Vhembe climate is typically subtropical, with mild, moist winters and wet, warm summers characterized by arid and semi-arid Lowveld. The district experiences annual rainfall of approximately 500mm per annum out of which about 87.1% falls between October and March. The rainfall pattern is largely influenced by the Orographic rain effect of the Drakensberg Mountains joining the Soutpansberg perpendicularly hence decreases from east to the west of the district.

The annual temperature ranges from a minimum of 10\textdegree C during winter to a maximum of up to 40\textdegree C especially around the Musina Local Municipality. The area experiences frequent droughts most particularly in the Mutale and Musina Local Municipalities that are predominantly semi-arid\textsuperscript{40}.

\textsuperscript{38} Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
\textsuperscript{39} Sekhukhune District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
\textsuperscript{40} Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
4.4.10 Air Quality

Sources of air pollution in the Vhembe District are largely from industrial processes that involve burning coal, oil or other fuels that cause serious air pollution e.g. boilers, mineral processing, storage and handling, inorganic chemicals industry and sawmills factories.

Agricultural activities are also a major contributor to air pollution in the municipal area. Methane arises from animal dung, biological decay and fermentation in the stomach of livestock. Vast quantities of dust are also generated during harvesting and ploughing. Pesticides and herbicides are sprayed on crops to increase crop quality and quantity. These chemicals however remain in the soil and air, killing plants and animals and affecting the ecosystem. The spreading of nitrogen fertilizers on agricultural fields increases the content of nitrous oxide in the atmosphere.

Residential sources of pollution include emissions from braziers, wood stoves, backyard burning, barbecues, natural gas heating, structural fires, and household heating, heating, and consumer products. Mining and its waste dumps are also responsible for air pollution in the district. Poorly managed coal mines can leak methane into the atmosphere, and coal waste dumps contain materials that can burn on their own and produce poisonous particles and gases\(^{41}\).

4.4.11 Forestry

Poor transport for agricultural products, shortage of necessary skills and few processing factories are the main challenges facing the forestry sector in the Vhembe District Municipality. The district has 23 commercial forestry companies with a total of 23 203 planted hectares which composed of 7 173 ha of gum and 15 066 ha of pine species. There are 34 small timber growers with the average land under plantation of 259 ha from the total land size of 372 ha. They specialize in pine and eucalyptus.

The estimated yield of commercial plantations is 2 389 909 tons while for small timber growers is 26 780 tons. There are 4 sawmills, 4 manufacturers and 5 treatment plants in the district. Sawmills produce mainly pallets planks while manufactured products are mainly window frames and doors, and treatment plants mainly produce poles.

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\(^{41}\) Vhembe District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
There are currently two forestry plantation projects under land reform - Rossbach and Ratombo, both of which have been handed over to the communities\textsuperscript{42}.

\textsuperscript{42} Ibid
MAP 4: POPULATION GROWTH/DECLINE & EXISTING PROJECTS
MAP 5: HEALTH FACILITIES & POLICE STATIONS:
Inputs from Stakeholders

The meeting was held on the 17th June 2015 at the Vhembe Council Chambers. Present in the meeting were representatives from Vhembe DM, Musina LM, Mutale LM, LEDA, LEDET, DRDLR and members of Traditional Councils. Below are some of the issues raised:

- There was an interest in the concept of Agri-Parks, and their location in the district.
- It was mentioned that there is an Agro-processing plant in Nwanedi areas, Musina, and clarity was needed on the difference between that and Agri-Parks.
- DRDLR mentioned that an Agri-Park will be located in Thohoyandou.
- Concerns were raised on the salience of other economic activities such as mining and tourism.
- Concerns were voiced on land invasions in the district and such actions threatened prime agricultural land.
- There was a general sense of optimism with regard to the proposed DRDP for Vhembe.

4.5 SWOT Analysis

The section provides a synopsis of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities (SWOT analysis) that exists in each of the DM’s local municipalities. While this is not an exhaustive SWOT outline, it assists in providing a sound appreciation of the districts’ main economic, social, environmental and institutional endowments, at the same time allowing for the identification of barriers to inclusive rural development.

4.5.1 Makhado Local Municipality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
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<tr>
<td>— Makhado has favourable climate and soil that the agricultural sector can use as competitive advantage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Traditional authorities hold land in rural areas and that can assist in development as the government can monitor any developments carried out by owners and it can ensure that they are in line with the districts development goals.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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<tr>
<td>— Makhado is predominantly rural in nature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Majority of the rural communities are under-developed and that is where the majority of the population resides.</td>
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</table>
Development of the urban core is hindered by the issue of land claims.

Opportunities
- There lies great potential in the sectors of agriculture and tourism for this local municipality.
- Makhado has areas with mineral potential.

Threats
- Majority of the land is used for farming purposes and that results in constant environmental threats.
- Majority of the land is privately owned or owned by traditional authorities and that affects land availability.

4.5.2 Musina Local Municipality

Strengths
- Musina is described as a provincial growth point because of its high economic activity and rendering of services to local and surrounding communities.

Weaknesses
- Musina is predominantly rural in nature.
- There is limited potential for self-sustainable development in areas such as Madimbo, Matale, Tshikhudini, Tanda and Domboni because of their small population and the fact that they are only functioning as residential areas with no economic base.

Opportunities
- There lies great potential in the sectors of Agriculture and Tourism for this local municipality because of the fertile soil.

Threats
- Approximately 59% of the land in Musina is privately owned and that hinders the availability of land.
- Due to the issue of land claims, there is no ability to develop land.
- The Musina town planning scheme focuses on the urban areas of the local municipality and neglects the rural areas.

4.5.3 Mutale Local Municipality

Strengths
- Mutale has rich fertile soil that can bolster agricultural activities.
— It is host to one of the rare plants, the Baobab Tree and that can work to the advantage of the tourism sector.

**Weaknesses**

— Has poor road infrastructure, with approximately 71% of roads being gravel roads.
— Mutale is a predominantly rural municipality and dominated by unplanned settlements owned by traditional leaders.

**Opportunities**

— Mutale has great potential in the sectors of Agriculture and Tourism.
— There are no squatter settlements or informal settlements in the LM.

**Threats**

— Majority of the land is owned by Traditional Authorities, which to a certain extent results in the unavailability of land.

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**4.5.4 Thulamela Local Municipality**

**Strengths**

— Thulamela has rich fertile soils critical for agricultural development.
— Just like Mutale, Thulamela is host to one of the rare plants, the Baobab Tree and that can work to the advantage of the tourism sector.

**Weaknesses**

— Thulamela is affected by dilapidated and shortage of classrooms and administration blocks, lack of electricity in schools, dilapidated and shortage of toilets.
— Thulamela has 3 hospitals, Donal Fraser, Malamulele and Hayani, 52 Clinics and 14 mobiles- which experience shortage of medicine, poor road and communication networks and basic amenities such as shade and water.

**Opportunities**

— The area is rich in agriculture production including atchar factories and juice manufacturing.
— Tourist attractions such as the Nandoni dam, Maumbane and phiphidi waterfalls and accommodation establishments can be found in the LM.
— There is mining potential in Malamulele, e.g. the Fumani Gold Mine.

**Threats**

— Land invasion and illegal demarcation of sites in proclaimed areas by traditional authorities.
— Majority of the land falls under traditional authorities and that hinders development.
— There is no land for development in Sibasa and Thohoyandou.

### 4.6 Key Findings from in Loco/Ground Truthing Inspections

On the 17th and 18th of November 2015, Inspections in loco were conducted in the Vhembe district municipality in order to ascertain some basic information in the rural areas. Meetings were held with various stakeholders in order to determine the challenges and opportunities in the rural areas that need to be considered.

There is a lot of undocumented information that is only seen when visiting the intervention areas and talking to the community. This assists with 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 implement.
Issues raised in the meeting

- Farms in the Levubu area, which were claimed and restored but not being used due to conflict amongst the beneficiaries.
- Tshilamba area must be added as one of the functional regions and the abiding villages shall be classified as intervention areas.
- Vuwani be added as new functional region and the villages close to it must be added as intervention areas.
- Malamulele functional region be extended to Mavambe, Mudabula and Mulamula
- There are prospected minerals in the Tshimbupfe area next to Vuwani that need to be unveiled further.
- Fundudzi Lake, Tshatshingo Pot Holes, Holly Forest, Makuya Park, Big Tree, Sagole Spar Hot Springs and Bako la Tshavhadinda, within the Tshilamba functional area and area of intervention that need to be marketed and supported further so that they can boost the local economy.
- Awelani Lodge needs to be improved since it is towards the Pafuri gate, it will therefore host the tourists visiting the Kruger National Park.
- There is a proposed border gate to Zimbabwe close to Awelani lodge that will also create economic spin offs.
- The strategic access road need to be tarred to attract investors.
4.7 Spatial depiction of the Niche commodities

Niche products in Vhembe district

- **Mopani worm** – spatially distributed around Messina, Punda Maria, Mapungubwe, Blouberg Mountains, Thulamela municipality. The niche product is in close proximity to functional region (1, 2, 3, and 4).

- **Mpesu tree** spatially distributed around Thoyando. The niche product is in close proximity to functional region (3 and 4).

- **Marula tree** spatially distributed around Thulamela municipality (settlements; Madonsi, Phungwa, Bobo, Makhasa). The niche product is close to functional region (3 and 4).

Generally, the niche products are in close proximity to the proposed Farmer Production Support Units (Map 9) where they can be sent for processing. Furthermore, more Mopani worms are close to the Agrihub site in Musina. Agri-parks provide networks of contacts between producers, markets and processors in addition to providing the physical infrastructure required for the transforming industries. The focus of the agri-park is primarily the processing of ‘agricultural products’ (and the mix of ‘non-agricultural’ industries as well as other related products). Linkages between the Agri-parks and surrounding agricultural land for production is very vital. This includes the identified and proposed FPSUs and the niche products. The movement of unprocessed goods from the source which can be smallholder irrigation products, or agricultural output from subsistence farmers or the identified niche products will lead to the FPSUs and finally the Agri-Parks for processing. This system entails the connection of the various aspects such as the produced products, the FPSUs and Agri-Parks for processing.
MAP 8: SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NICHE PRODUCTS
4.8 Synthesis

Vhembe District Municipality is predominantly rural in nature with approximately 97% of its population residing in rural areas. Vhembe DM sources its water supply from 11 dams which are located within the district namely: Nandoni, Nzhelele, Damani, Tshakuma, Mutshedzi, Vondo, Lupepe, Middle Letaba, Albasini, and, Mahonisi. The Limpopo River System on the northern part of the district is considered as the lifeblood of the northern Vhembe semi-arid area.

Vhembe District Municipality has one of the greatest and most beautiful environments and is situated in an area with a long and proud history. It has real, authentic, and largely un-spoilt resources as well as a rich in cultural heritage. There is need therefore to ensure that the district’s natural capital is not disrupted by pressures for economic growth. To improve the quality of life in Vhembe, certain high impact opportunities such as small scale mining in Mutale and Musina should be adopted. In addition to that there is need for erection of stone crusher’s plants for the community management and regulation of Brickyards allocation as well as Regulation of sand mining business.

The mining sector contributes significantly to Mutale’s GDP (above 50%) and contributed approximately 38% in Musina. Areas where there are mining operations in the Vhembe DM include: copper mining in Messina, Tsheipise Magnesite field; Mudimeli Coal Fields; Tshipise, Pafuri and Mopani coal fields. Other mining productions include quarries, stone crushers, brick-making, salt production and sand deposits.

Agricultural households range from between just over 10% of the total (Musina LM), and just over 50% of the total (Mutale LM). The actual activity recorded among households in respective local municipalities in descending order is Mutale (54%), Thulamela (46%), Makhado (38%), and Musina (11%). The nature of agricultural activity by households’ shows a diversity of production mainly confined to livestock production, and major cropping in macadamia nuts, and citrus production. The agriculture sector to some extent is necessitated by the climatic conditions of the District municipality. The Vhembe climate is typically subtropical, with mild, moist winters and wet, warm summers characterized by arid and semi-arid Lowveld. Municipality. The area experiences frequent droughts most particularly in the Mutale and Musina Local Municipalities that are predominantly semi-arid.

The Vhembe District Municipality is characterised by both high-lying and low-lying areas. Its relief is divided into the lowveld in the east; the Limpopo valley in the north and northwest; the Soutpansberg region in the central part, and the Pietersburg plateau in the south. The area is comprised of a few catchments areas that are stressed by the high demand for water for development activities such as agriculture, human consumption and mining.
However, inconsistencies in land-use management and administration remain a challenge within the VDM and there is a need to strengthen existing strategic spatial plans in the district. Service provision and community facilities are dispersed and not adequate, therefore more effort must be put in introducing these in nodal or rather growth points so as to enable a wider access of these services by citizens.

The main challenge can also be put on land ownership. Land is a scarce commodity and majority of the land available in Vhembe DM is either privately owned or held by tribal or traditional authorities. The existence of varied land tenure systems can make it difficult to initiate development particularly if land owners do not grant permission.

The provision of basic and quality education within the district is a challenge, because the majority of the schools are in appalling conditions with inadequate and/or dilapidated classrooms, and toilet facilities. These challenges are compounded by uneven service delivery across the district, particularly water, electricity, roads network and housing. Generally speaking, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that exists in each of the DM’s local municipalities can be discussed according to local municipalities:

. Makhado local municipality has favourable climate and soil that the agricultural sector can utilise as a competitive advantage. Traditional authorities hold land in rural areas and that can assist in development of the local municipality. The municipality has a well-developed road and rail network. The road network includes links to the N1 through the Trans-Limpopo corridor. However, the majority of the rural communities are under-developed and that is where the majority of the population resides. Development of the urban core is constrained by the issue of land claims. The demarcation of sites by traditional authorities creates service backlogs.

Musina local municipality is a provincial growth point because of its high economic activity. However More than half the land in Musina is privately owned which constraints the availability of land due to the issue of land claims, there is no ability to develop land. The Musina town planning scheme focuses on the urban areas of the local municipality and neglects the rural areas.

Mutale has rich fertile soil that can bolster agricultural activities. It is host to one of the rare plants, the Baobab Tree and that can work to the advantage of the tourism sector. However, majority of the land is owned by Traditional Authorities, which to a certain extent results in the unavailability of land.

Thulamela has rich fertile soils necessary for agricultural development. Thulamela is host to one of the rare plants, the Baobab Tree and that can work to the advantage of the tourism sector.
sector. Land invasion and illegal demarcation of sites in proclaimed areas by traditional authorities. The majority of the land falls under traditional authorities and that hinders development.
5 SECTION FIVE - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

In proposing development-oriented interventions in Vhembe, 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 for the realisation of the DRDP objectives. The DRDP objectives are outlined as follows:

- Objective 1: Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector
- Objective 2: Promoting development in the rural economy and investment in rural revitalisation
- Objective 3: Promoting Integrated Human Settlements
- Objective 4: Improving Tourism Competitiveness
- Objective 5: Revitalisation and development of Mining
- Objective 6: Conserving the natural environment

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

While Vhembe is known for its pristine natural environment and wetlands, there also exists potential for agriculture in the areas. Agricultural development 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 natural capital.

5.1.1 Development Action 1: Utilize of farms and optimizing the potential of FPSUs and Agri-Parks

Agri-Parks provide a unique opportunity for the realisation of transformative agricultural development and rural economic transformation in Vhembe and beyond. The three components of Agri-Parks i.e. Farmer Production Support Unit (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 Vhembe. To this end, Agri-Parks are presented in this district rural development plan as providing a holistic operational strategy to agrarian reform and agri-business development. It is recommended that:
• The Agri-Hub as a production, equipment hire, processing, packaging, logistics and training unit be utilised for strengthening agricultural commodity value-chain in the entire Vhembe district municipality;

• Development of Agri-villages (agriculture community of which the members have equal shares in the village and its activities) around Bulwini and Nhombelani;

• Provision of agricultural related infrastructure in settlements and villages around Makhado, Musina, and Thohoyandou;

• Identification of new commodities and markets based on Vhembe’s competitive and comparative advantages;

• 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: Water Infrastructure

• Borehole refurbishment;

• Re-instatement/refurbishment of dysfunctional water schemes;

• Operation and maintenance of water supply;

• Provision of new water infrastructure;

5.1.3 Development Action 3: Promoting micro-enterprises and survival strategies in rural villages and households through supporting of small scale farmers.

• Improvement of the irrigation schemes, investment in irrigation infrastructure, will 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.

• Informal enterprises are an asset to the greater economy, even if they do not contribute directly to the national or provincial fiscus. Their role in supporting livelihoods and local economic development is significant and these enterprises should not be seen as survivalist or transitory.

• Policy should facilitate enterprise sustainability and creating new opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs. A large focus should be on those already involved in informal trading/business.

• Some of informal businesses and survival strategies in Vhembe include:
  o Selling of Mpesu and other herbs
  o Mopani Worms
  o Subsistance farming (both livestock and crop farming)
Fish harvesting
• Sand mining
• Firewood selling
• Brick making
• Selling of fruits and vegetables
• Informal markets trading in strategic points

5.1.4 Development Action 4: Addressing the effects of climate change on agriculture

- Feasibility studies on the mitigation strategies
- Research and promotion on growing drought resistant crops

5.2 Objective 2: Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural revitalisation

Rural industrialisation 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 Musina, Makhado and Thohoyandou as well as the townships and villages surrounding them. To this end, the economic functionality of Vhembe 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: Investment in Physical Infrastructure

- Provision of roads, rail, freight and ICT infrastructure that can foster intra and inter-district connectivity and mobility within and beyond Vhembe district. Improving access to communication technology, and harnessing the use of new media for promoting urban-rural business interactions and innovation.

5.2.2 Development Action 2: Promoting the Renewal of Rural Towns and Villages

- **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 investments;
- **Village revitalisation** – projects must be implemented in all densely populated villages. The focus of these projects must be on provision of water, electricity and other social services critical for the improvement of 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 liveable and marketable places that can attract investment, skills and tourism.

• *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. Below is the list of towns proposed for revitalisation:*
  
  o Vuwani
  o Malamulele
  o Tshaulu
  o Mutale
  o Masisi
  o Siloam
  o Tzanini

5.2.3 Development Action 3: Completion of existing stalled Rural Development-Oriented Projects

With numerous rural development projects underway in Vhembe, it is imperative to ensure that;

• Sustainable, long-term funding mechanisms are put in place for all rural development-oriented projects;

• Fostering of intergovernmental and interdepartmental coordination of rural development projects for strategic harmonisation and alignment of efforts;

• Strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation instruments in the district municipality to ensure successful completion of existing projects.

5.2.4 Development Action 4: Build up the small scale mining industry in VDM

• Supporting of small scale mining

• Skills training for small scale mining

5.2.5 Development Action 5: Build on the established road network in the region

• Road maintenance in the rural areas

• Development of road networks linking settlements with areas with infrastructure

• Vhembe’s integrated transport plan include the following strategies:
  
  o To ensure adequate maintenance of the road infrastructure
  o To ensure adequate access roads to rural villages
  o To develop a public transport system that aims to offer a social service to the poor and disadvantaged communities in the VDM
In the medium to longer term, to promote an organised, balanced and integrated public transport system

5.2.6 Development Action 6: Establishment of a technology park
- Develop a feasibility study to establish the viability of a technology park
- Consideration of the infrastructure required for such development
- Market and promote the venture

5.2.7 Development Action 7: Development of a renewable energy research park
- Develop feasibility studies for VDM to establish the viability of a renewable energy park to increase the visibility of renewable energy technologies
- Consideration of various forms of renewable energy including solar projects, hydro power and micro wind
- Biomass for energy use
- Solar energy investment

5.3 Objective 3: Promoting Integrated Human Settlements
Following the recommendations set out in Chapter 8 of the NDP, there is a need for Vhembe to fast-track the provision of adequate social services 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 Vhembe.

5.3.1 Development Action 1: Reduction of service delivery backlogs
Mutale local municipality is faced with water backlogs and challenges, approximately 20% of the water supply is lost due to spillages, illegal connections, burst of plastic tanks, damages and theft of manhole covers and padlocks as well as leakages. Most of the rural areas in Makhado local municipality do not have access to water at household level. Monitoring of water services backlogs and development of water infrastructure plan is imperative

There is a backlog of sanitation services in all the local municipalities in the VDM. Installation of new sanitation connections to households and eradication of pit latrines is essential.

Education service in the Mutale and Thulamela local municipalities are negatively affected by violence, burglary, vandalism, gangsterism and mismanagement of school finances.
Small towns and rural areas don’t have direct access to local tertiary satellite education services. On the whole there is need for refurbishment of dilapidated schools. Expansion of the existing schools facilitates as well as building new modern schools is necessary.

Mutale and Thulamela local municipalities are faced by housing challenges which encompass abandoned RDP houses, outdated housing chapter, poor quality and unavailability of land for future townships.

Thulamela local municipality is faced with waste collection backlogs especially in the villages. There are 2 landfills but only 1 is licenced (Muledane-Tswinga).

Across Vhembe district there is need for electrification projects; strengthening existing strategic spatial plans in the district; 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: Promotion of Vhembe region and its attractions through harnessing the cultural heritage and development corridors**

- Promotion of the Cultural Heritage corridors, as a means of growing the cultural tourism sector in and across the district. Focus must be given especially to villages in close proximity to gates leading into the Kruger National Park;
- Development of tourism-related activities in townships and villages to allow for broad-based participation in this sector, with a specific focus on women and youth participation;
- Harnessing and packaging eco-tourism products across Vhembe;
- Conservation of all natural environments through protection
- Upgrading and maintenance of roads that lead up to tourist attraction destinations;
- Develop village place-making and/or branding strategy – this is important as it promotes rural spaces as liveable 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.

5.5 **Objective 5: Revitalisation and development of mining**

5.5.1 **Development Action 1: Revitalisation of existing mines**

- This can be done through providing support to Gumbo small mine, near Musina.
- There is need to coordinate and support local entrepreneurship, in venturing into small scale mining and harness the mineral belt around the areas near Musina.
• In addition to that, there is need for Involving women and the youth in any mining beneficiation programme

5.5.2 Development Action 2: Conducting of researches and feasibility studies for the development of mines

• Monitoring the negative impact that mining operations may have on the environment.
• Research on mine health and safety towards a safe and healthy mining industry.
• This is to be achieved by reducing mining related deaths, injuries and ill health through the formulation of national policy and legislation,
• Research and exploration of new mines or minerals as well as renewable energy (geo thermal, wind)
• Provision of advice, and the application of systems that monitor and enforce compliance with the law in the mining sector.

5.6 Objective 6: Conserving the natural environment

5.6.1 Developmental Action 1: Preservation of the natural environment

• Ensure that the environment including biodiversity is considered in DM decisions and projects
• Address the environmental problems caused by inappropriate agricultural methods
6 SECTION SIX – SPATIAL RATIONALE

6.1 DISTRICT APPROACH TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The district rural development plan for Vhembe 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, the economic development of Vhembe’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. Sites for Agri-Parks are also selected in some of the functional regions.

Agri-parks provide networks of contacts between producers, markets and processors in addition to providing the physical infrastructure required for the transforming industries. This system entails the connection of the various aspects such as the produced products, the FPSUs and Agri-Hubs for processing. The FPSUs in the district will offer support to the farmers in various ways such as agriculture extension support, produce sorting facility (farmers produce as well as niche products). Storage house, local pack house local market and local auction facility. Specifically, for Vhembe these niche products (Mopani worm, Mpesu tree, and Marula tree) can form a belt which links them to the nearest FPSUs for further processing as well as storage facility or services found at the FPSUs.

6.2 IDENTIFICATION OF FUNCTIONAL REGIONS

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 as well as 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 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:\(^{43}\)

- Diverse/composite service regions;
- Specialised service regions;

\(^{43}\) Ibid.
- 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 economics 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.

In identifying and mapping functional regions for Vhembe, various variables and datasets were used. These include;

- population count per settlement as the considerable contributing factor as well as other aspects which incorporates;
- Population count in the Vhembe district municipality (decline and growth) – This value is indicative of urbanisation and depopulation trends in Vhembe. Rural development is about improving people’s lives, and so the analysis of population trends allows for a more people-centric approach to municipal planning.
- Accessibility index – this depicts the availability of transport networks and total travel time between points. The existence of a developed and integrated transport network makes it possible for both intra-regional and inter-regional flow of goods, services and people to occur.
- economic investment areas;
- proximity to agriculture-related infrastructure;
- Departmental Catalytic Projects;
- Development Nodes;
- DRLRD District Gateways;
- Agriculture Potential land; and
- CASP Projects
- Strategically Located Land Index (SLLi). The SLLi takes into account the following variables notably: proximity to physical infrastructure; proximity to major towns/gateways and markets; average rainfall; slope elevation and
temperature and; soil types. The SLLi allows for the identification of strategically located land for various economic activities and land uses.

- The Gross Value Add (GVA) – this data depicts average GVA contribution to district economy per sector (inter alia agriculture, mining, manufacturing, wholesale & retail, transport, community services and government services, and finance, and insurance services).

The following maps show the spatial distribution of various transport and agriculture infrastructure as well as various commodities which were considered in locating Diverse Functional Regions and subsequently areas within the district that are in need of government intervention i.e. Intervention Areas.

In particular, proximity to 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 9: ACCESSIBILITY INDEX

Legend
- Major Towns
- Main Roads
- Secondary roads
- Railway

Accessibility Index
- 0.0 - 0.7
- 0.8 - 1.1
- 1.2 - 1.8
- 1.7 - 2.1
- 2.2 - 2.9
MAP 10: POPULATION GROWTH AND DECLINE AND PROJECTS
MAP 11: ACTIVE MINES AND MINING COMMODITIES
MAP 13: AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL
MAP 14: AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE
6.3 AGRI-HUBS, FPSUS & THEIR SPATIAL RELATIONSHIP TO INTERVENTION AREAS

As discussed in section 1.7, the Vhembe 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.

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) – the RUMC has three main purposes;
  - Linking and contracting rural, urban and international markets through contracts;
  - Acts as a holding-facility, releasing produce to urban markets based on seasonal trends;
  - Provides market intelligence and information feedback, to the AH and FPSU, using latest Information and communication technologies.

Vhembe has one proposed Agri-Hub located in Nwanedi (see map below) and five proposed FPSUs located in Levubu, Tshiombo, Dzanani, Malamulele, Hlanganani and Sinthumule/Tshilwavhusiku. There also exists a potential FPSU site located closer to Matsila and Masia CRDP sites along the Elim-Giyani Road junction.
MAP 15: VHEMBE AGRI HUB AND FPSUs
7 SECTION SEVEN - VHEMBE FUNCTIONAL REGIONS AND INTERVENTION AREAS

The following diverse functional regions (DFRs) were identified.

Functional Region 1 - consists of Musina;

Functional Region 3 - comprises of Thohoyandou, Vuwani -Tshilamba are within the Thulamela, Makhado and Mutale Local Municipalities;

Functional Region 4 – comprises Malamulele- Tshaulu & Gaba area within the (Thulamela Local Municipality);

Functional Region 5 – comprises of Nwanedi located about 20 km east of Tshipise and 35 km north of Thohoyandou, to the west of Kruger National Park.

Makhado functional region stretches from Ha-Ravele up to Majosi areas. Makhado town and Elim are the main focal areas which are well developed. Most villages within the DFR depend on Makhado and Thohoyandou as a primary source of services. Elim being a secondary node also depends on Makhado for some services. The existence of Elim plays a vital role in providing services to the people from the intervention areas around. There is a better connection between Makhado and the surrounding areas in terms of roads connections. This helps in the transportation of goods and services.

Thohoyandou is the commercial, administrative and legislative centre for the district. It is a bustling centre of commerce, well served with shopping complexes, an interesting museum, as well as a hotel and casino of international standards. On the main road between Makhado and the Kruger National Park there is the lush agricultural center of Venda, with its banana plantations, acres of sub-tropical fruit, tobacco and maize lands.

Malamulele is the centre for this functional region and it has shops, malls, government departments, stadium and other facilities. Majority of the villages around buy their convenient goods in Malamulele area. The functional region connects to Thohoyandou in terms of services. It is along the R 81 road to Giyani and it also connects to the road to Vuwani and Makhado. Majority of the villages in the area are under the traditional authority.
Map 16: FUNCTIONAL REGIONS & INTERVENTION AREAS
7.1 DFR 1: Musina area under the Musina Local Municipality

Musina town in Musina local Municipality under Functional Region 1 is connected to other functional regions (2, 3, and 4) by main roads N1, R524 and R525. (Functional Regions 2: encompassing Elim and Waterval under the Makhado Local Municipality. Functional Region 3: includes Thohoyandou, Vuwani -Tshilamba within the Thulamela, Makhado and Mutale Local Municipalities. Functional Region 4: includes Malamulele- Tshaulu & Gaba within the (Thulamela Local Municipality).

Musina as a service town is identified as the main economic hub in the district. The whole district is suitable for agricultural activities; a large part of the land cover has high potential for grazing and areas where there is large concentration of settlements. There are two development nodes, namely the Southern part of the district, close to Musina, classified particularly for mining, investments and the revitalization of irrigation scheme. A number of catalytic projects can also be found here.

Discussion on functional region rational, spatial linkages values chains

Musina (FR1) is situated close to the Beit Bridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe; it is the main entry point into the country from countries north of South Africa. Musina is supported with a good road network (N1, R527 and R525) and some secondary routes. This allows for the movement of people and goods and services within South Africa. The road network allows and supports trade between South Africa and other countries in the north. In addition to that, it forms the linkage to other functional regions because of its intrinsic location from an economic point of view. In addition, the town is developed around the copper mining industry in the area which allows for the movement of labour to the mining areas from different areas and functional regions as well as intervention areas.
The strategic location of the Municipality, and in particular Musina town, in relation to the N1 and the Beitbridge and Pontdrift border posts should also be extensively exploited and marketed. The development of business in the villages along the eastern boundary of the Municipality are constrained due to the remote location of these villages from the economic node of Musina town, as well as the lacking communications and transport infrastructure in these areas. It is therefore necessary for business support to also stretch into these areas, allowing the advancement and further integration of these areas into the economy of the Municipality.

Land claims are a current reality in Musina Municipality, with large portions of private and state land being the subject of land claims. Land claims constrain economic development, as great uncertainty is created amongst investors, who are hesitant to invest in land until such time that claims have been settled.

Agricultural activities taking place in Musina Municipality are mainly focused on game farming, with horticulture and livestock production also taking place. While the production of citrus, mangoes and tomatoes are to a large extent undertaken by commercial farming enterprises, small-scale crop and vegetable farming is also taking place locally.

Such strong agriculture activities in Musina also allow opportunities for further beneficiation and the extension of value-adding activities of locally produced products. Processing facilities in the Municipality are currently fairly limited, supporting mainly commercial farmers and not covering the full range of products produced locally. The range of vegetables and other horticultural products produced in the Municipality, with the availability of small holder irrigation schemes in close proximity to the Functional region as well as the strong game farming industry in the Municipality, it creates further opportunities for the establishment of a variety of processing facilities.

There are tourist attractions and activities in the region that can be coordinated and focussed on achieving certain specific objectives, gradually growing the Tourism sector in the Municipality. The point of departure for Musina should, therefore, be to first develop and promote an impressive and valuable tourism flows into the area and to other regions. Without such a tourism anchor, other tourist-related development efforts will not be able to develop and grow successfully. The Mapungubwe Landscape, which has been declared a World Heritage site, and the Mapungubwe National Park comprises the world famous Mapungubwe archaeological site where golden artefacts were found in ancient royal graves.

Musina also boasts a wide range of other attractions, due to extensive wildlife conservation and private sector game farming and conservation activities in the Municipality. Wildlife and
nature related attractions include the Musina Nature Reserve to the south and east of Musina town; the Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve to the south of Mapungubwe National Park, which boasts a wild dog breeding and research programme; and the Honnet Nature Reserve near Tshipise. Other attractions include the Limpopo River as the northern boundary of Musina Municipality, the Beit Bridge and Pontdrift border crossings, a number of SAN rock art sites, the Tshipise hot spring resort, the Bolai/Dongola execution rocks along the R572 Pondrift road and the 38ha large bulai rock along the same road.

7.2 DFR 2: Louis Trichardt, Elim, Waterval under Makhado Local Municipality

Discussion of functional region rational, spatial linkages values chains

This functional region stretches from Ha-Ravele up to Majosi areas. Makhado town and Elim are the main focal areas which are well developed. All the villages within the DFR depend on Louis Trichardt (Makhado) as a primary source of services. Elim being a secondary node also depend on Makhado for some services. The existence of Elim plays a vital role in providing services to the people from the intervention areas around. There is a better connection between Louis Trichardt and the surrounding areas in terms of roads connections. This helps in the transportation of goods and services.

Louis Trichardt as the centre of the DFR has the following services:

- Shopping centre that serves people from the east, west and even the north.
- Government services
- Transportation networks such as rail, roads and even airport.
- Infrastructures (poultry and red meat abattoirs) that can assist during the marketing process for the commodities in the rural areas.
- Health facilities and entertainment area

Makhado Rural Market Urban Market Centre (RUMC)

It is proposed that there should be one RUMC at the initial stage of the project. It is further proposed that the RUMC should be located in the Makhado area the town is strategically located and has existing infrastructure and can also be easily accessed.

Sinthumule/Tshilwavhusiku FPSU

The FPSU is proposed does not fall within any intervention area, however, due to its importance, it is crucial that an FPSU is developed in the area so that it can serve farmers in the locality. Sinthumule area is located West of Louis Trichardt area and it is accessed through the R522 Road to Vivo from Louis Trichardt. The FPSU will directly link to the
RUMC in Louis Trichardt which is approximately 45km to the East. The FPSU will serve the following villages amongst others Kutama, Midoroni, Maebani, Muduluni, Ha-Madodonga, Muraleni, Madabani and Tshiozwi. There are agricultural activities taking place along the river that feeds Spies dam.
MAP 18: FUNCTIONAL REGION 2

Legend
- Major Towns
- Poultry Abattoirs
- Red Meat Abattoirs
- Catalytic Projects
- SAGIS Processors
- Sawmills
- Smallholder Irrigation Scheme
- Millers
- CASP Projects
- RIEP
- RD
- FPGUs
- Main Roads
- Secondary roads
- Railway
- Rivers
- Population Per Settlement
- 0 - 4108
- 4109 - 23162
- 23163 - 79009
- Municipal Service Region
- Intervention Area 1
- Functional Region 2
Elim as a secondary node in the DFR has a hospital, shopping centres and other government services that assist the people from the surrounding areas.

The roads network in the area are N1 from Polokwane to Musina, R524 to Pundamaria via Thohoyandou, R 578 to Giyani. The functional region has major roads connection that links to the DFR such as Thohoyandou and Malamulele and also Giyani, which is under the Mopani District Municipality. So there is a vital connection between the DFR’s although the access roads to the commodities are in bad conditions and this leads to poor marketing and connection to markets.

7.2.1 Intervention Area 1: Elim/Waterval, Mpheni and other villages in the vicinity

These are the settlements in and around Majozi, Bungeni, Elim, Nesengani, Tshino, Tshimbupfe, Hasani, Davhani, Sundani, Madobi, Masia, Matsila, Mashamba and Chavani. This intervention area is located within the functional region 2 (DFR2). These settlements have a high population count and are connected by a number of secondary road networks.

The IA has high potential in terms of agriculture and tourism as the primary commodities. It is close to the Levubu area, which is known country wide for producing best quality fruits. FPSU is also proposed in this area at Matsila village. This area is mainly under the traditional leadership. There are still challenges in terms of land claims that are not being processed by the department and this is impeding agricultural development.

Access roads leading to the commodities are in bad condition. There are Agricultural schemes that need to be capacitated in terms of knowledge and infrastructure.

This IA depends on Elim and Louis Trichardt for services although the villages on the eastern part are far from the main towns. The nearest area that can serve this part is Vuwani. Vuwani has potential for growth and most people rely on it but because of poor access roads, people are forced to travel to Elim and even further especially those using public transport.

The Agri-Hub FPSU business plan is proposed an Agri-Hub be established at Hlanganani.
Existing Projects Overview

a) Mpheni Agricultural Irrigation Scheme
   - It is a community-based scheme within Mpheni village that started around September 2015; it is an initiative by the community members. The scheme is located inside Mpheni community clinic.
   - Some of the community members within the scheme raised a concern that they do not have pipes for water and irrigation equipment.
   - The scheme sells their produce to local people in the area and it is managed by six members.
   - Within the Mpheni village, community members are engaged in subsistence farming. This could be seen as a way to supplement their income and their own food security.
   - Some of them sell their produce to big retailers such as Shoprite and Pick ‘n Pay.

b) Vhuwaluvhola Cooperative
   - This cooperative is for people with disabilities, and it is located within Mpheni village.
   - The cooperative is engaged in poultry and other agricultural activities such as crops. However, one the cooperative members raised a concern about the limited space of the cooperative as it is less than one hectare in size.
   - Safety is a challenge within the cooperative since some of the cooperative members stay within it. They previously had an incident in which chickens were stolen.
   - The project received support from the Department of Agriculture and SEDA.
c) Pfukani Bakery
   - Pfukani Bakery is located within the Chavani village; the bakery is for people living with disabilities.
   - The project started in 2001 with the support from the national lottery, the Makhado Municipality has helped with the provision of a fence.
   - The bakery operated 24 hours, but security is a challenge since there are no security guards and women operate the bakery.
   - Accessibility to the bakery is a challenge since the road leading to the bakery is not tarred.
   - The bakery produces about 800 loaves of bread per day; they sell to local retailers and community members.
   - They also have one delivery vehicle, which breaks down sometimes making it difficult for them to deliver.

d) Dishumele Irrigation Schemes
   - The scheme is located in Sundani village, and it produces peppers, beans, tobacco and tomatoes.
   - They had one water pump which was stolen which led to the partial halt of production.
   - Another challenge is that the fence is very low this allows the livestock to enter the scheme.
   - The scheme started operating in 1986. Currently they plough maize only because it does not require a large amount of water.
   - In the past, they formed groups of 35 people and trucks from big retailers came to collect their produce.
   - According to the members of the schemes, water and fencing are currently a major priority for them. So far they have not received any form of government support.
• Former Agri-Ven has assisted them with agricultural training but since its collapse in 1995, the schemes have collapsed too.

7.3 DFR 3: Thohoyandou, Vuwani - Tshilamba are within the Thulamela, Makhado and Mutale Local Municipalities

Thohoyandou (FR3) is the commercial, administrative and legislative centre for the district. It is a bustling centre of commerce, well served with shopping complexes, museum, as well as a hotel and casino of international standards. On the main road between Louis Trichardt and the Kruger National Park there is the lush agricultural center of Venda, with its banana plantations, acres of sub-tropical fruit, tobacco and maize lands.

Thohoyandou is the main development node in the Thulamela Local Municipality and forms the main business centre of the area with the offices of the Vhembe District Municipality as well as the regional offices of several Government Departments also situated within the town. These facilities necessitate the linkage of Thohoyandou to other districts. The northern part of the DFR is mainly rural and comprises of two intervention areas. Majority of the people in this area depend on Thohoyandou, which is growing rapidly in terms of infrastructure. The centre has tertiary institutions, shopping centres, malls, Industrial area, stadium and other services.
It is the hub of the district in terms of services and infrastructure. The FR connects to Malamulele and Louis Trichadt functional region in terms of services. There are major roads that link and traverse the entire region. R524, connects to the Pundamaria gate. This is a vital tourism and economic development corridor. The road further connects to the R 81 and Xigalo which creates a spin off in terms of transportation of goods and linkages with other functional regions. R 523 connects Thohoyandou to Musina where Agri-Hub is to be erected.

The FR also has an airport PR Mphephu Airport that is underutilised. The revitalisation of the airport can create a lot of opportunities in terms of importing and exporting goods to and from different areas.

7.3.1 Intervention Area 4: Khubvi, Mukula, Makonde, Shadani

The settlements in the area comprise of Khubvi, Mukula, Makonde, Shadani, Matangari, Mbaela e.t.c.. They are connected by secondary roads, which allow for the easy movement of goods and services and also link them to the main road.

The area has a number of irrigation schemes as it lies along the Mutale River although some of them are no longer functional.

The area is a complete rural settlement with small nodes of complimentary services and manufacturing businesses along the road such as in the Brick Yards of Makonde and Khubvi. There is also an existing cultural tourism in the Luvhimbi, Makonde, Vhurivhuri and Golwe, with Cycads trees ad caves. These are some of the tourism pillars that need to be improved in order to support the local economy.

The road from Matangari to Dzimauli and Tshandama to Ha-Khakhu needs to be tarred as it interconnects the villages and also assist in the transportation of goods and services. There is a lot of potential in Agriculture and trading which is not exploited because of the poor state of roads. The road from Matavhela to Tshixwadza also needs to be tarred since the area has potential for tourism and agriculture. Farmers are not able to transport their goods due to the poor road conditions.

Tshiombo FPSU

Tshiombo area is historically known for farming and has significant agricultural potential. An FPSU in the area will assist in the revitalisation of the collapsing agricultural schemes along the Mutale river and also assist other farmers in the region. The area will need proper access roads since the existing ones are not in good condition. There are a lot of agricultural activities such as tomato, maize, red meat production in the Masisi and the surrounding areas which warrant the erection of the support unit in order to assist local farmers with
services such as skills, packaging and marketing. The unit will be serviced by the Agri-Hub in Nwanedi area.
The following are the special features in this area:

**Agriculture**

There are many agricultural schemes along Mutale River that produces a variety of products. The products are delivered to major shops and supermarkets and also to the industries.

Subsistence farmers sell mangoes of which it is seasonal fruit. Mangoes are sold at very low price because the farmers are not linked to the mainstream economy. Building of an Atchar factory in Tshifudi area will assist a lot of farmers to process the mangoes locally and export the product to both regional and outside markets.

**Mutale River**

Mutale River is one of the longest river in the region and its source is Lake Funduza and feeds into the drains of Limpopo River which separate South African with Zimbabwe. There is a lot a crop farming along river Mutatale. Mbaela/Tshiombo scheme is also located along this river although it was closed down due to administrative issues. There is agriculture potential along river Mutale which needs to be tapped to boost the local economy.

There are many perennial rivers in the area that local people depend on for crop farming. Madzororo valley in Gungani, Mufongondi, Sane and all the areas. Crops are sold to local market such as Spar in Dzanani area where the FPSU is proposed.

**Macadamia nuts**

Farmers in this area have started planting the macadamia trees since there is a good market for nuts and shells. Macadamia nuts are known for making butter, oils and ointments apart from human consumption and there is high demand for nuts. The hard shells are also used for decoration purposes. The nuts are supplied to Levubu for packaging and they are later sold to markets outside the province. There is therefore need for building processing plants for the nuts in the district instead of transporting the nuts outside the district for processing.

The poor access roads remain a challenge in this area and it makes it difficult for development to take place and for the nuts to be transported to the markets. The Macadamia tress is planted from Dzimauli area, Tshixwadza, Dzamba, Gogogo and other areas in the vicinity. The farmers have even formed an association for the macadamia nuts value chain.

**Selected projects overview**

**Mbaela/Tshiombo/Matangari Irrigation Scheme**
The irrigation scheme is located within Tshiombo/Mbaela village. It used to be functional and produced agricultural products. The irrigation infrastructure is available and the scheme is strategically located close to a river canal. The scheme stopped operating due to administration matters in the area.

![Mbaela irrigation Scheme](image)

7.3.2 Intervention Area 5: Vuwani Area and the surrounding

- There is a shopping complex which is relatively small, which consists of various retail shops and informal traders. There is also a taxi rank in the location.
- There are also government offices such as Home affairs, Department of Education, and magistrate offices in the area.
- The road is tarred, but it has potholes and therefore it needs to be fixed.

Surrounding areas include Nesengani, Tshino, Tshimbupfe, Hasani, Davhani and Sundani, Madobi, Majosi, Masia, Mashamba and other areas in the vicinity.

The area has a potential for growth since there are many settlements that depend on it for various services. The area is characterised by poor infrastructure such as roads, which affects accessibility and delivery of services. The surrounding areas have vast commodities that need to be revived further to boost the local economy.

**Levubu FPSU**

It is proposed the the FPSU be located in the Levubu area since is a well know agricultural area with good infrastructure and it also accessible from the surrounding areas. Levubu area is well connected with the surrounding intervention areas and the RUMC in Makhado/Lous Trichardt. Levubu area is also well located between the DFR2 and DFR3 there fore it will serve both the regions.
7.3.3 Vuwani Service Region

From a spatial analysis, it is apparent that there exist a strong linkage between villages in Vuwani (intervention area 5, FR3) and Waterval (intervention Area 1, FR2). While Vuwani is strategically positioned to provide its residents with basic services, its capacity to do so is limited by lack of infrastructure. As a result, people from Vuwani often obtain services in Elim/Waterval or Thohoyandou. There is a need therefore for development interventions to be provided in this service region as a means of bolstering its capacity. Development of an FPSU in the area (Hlanganani is proposed) to support the villages around the service region.
MAP 22: VUWANI SERVICE REGION AND FUNCTIONAL REGIONS/ INTERVENTION AREAS
MAP 23: INTERVENTION AREA 5
There are abandoned mines that closed down because of various reasons. There is a need for research and feasibility studies to find out the viability of the mines if it is worth revamping and revitalising.

### 7.4 DFR 4: Malamulele-Tshaulu-Gaba Area within the Thulamela Local Municipality

Malamulele is the centre for this FR and it has shops, malls, government departments, stadium and other facilities. Majority of the villages around buy their convenient goods in Malamulele area. The FR connects to Thohoyandou in terms of services. It is along the R 81 road to Giyani and it also connects to the road to Vuwani and Louis Trichardt. Majority of the villages in the area are under the traditional authority. The Department of Agriculture is assisting the farmers with capacity through CASP program.

The villages adjacent to Kruger national park on the east have the potential of tapping into existing tourism related economic activities.
MAP 24: FUNCTIONAL REGION 4

Legend
- Catalytic Projects
- Smallholder Irrigation Scheme
- CASP Projects
- REID
- RID
- FPSUs
- Secondary roads
- Rivers
- Traditional Claims
- Population Per Settlement
- 0 - 4198
- 4199 - 23162
- 23163 - 78809
- Vhembe Service Region
- Intervention Areas
- Functional Region 4

0 5 10 Km

VHEMBE DRDP
FUNCTIONAL REGION 4

N

Ditau Geo-Informatics Solutions
7.4.1 Intervention Area 2 : Malamulele and Xigalo surrounded by the smaller villages of Mtititi, Mphambo, Mahonisi Housing and Others

Settlements found in this area include the highly populated village of Malamulele and Xigalo surrounded by the smaller villages of Mtititi, Mphambo, Mahonisi Housing, Jimmy Jones, Mavambe, Mulenzhe until Mulamula, Josefa, Gijana, Bevhula, Merwe A, Mapapila and other surrounding villages. These villages are linked to Thohoyandou through a number of secondary road networks. The settlements are in close proximity to a FPSU which offers opportunity for skills development and other benefits for the residents. The intervention area is inside the Malamulele functional region.

This intervention area especially on the villages that borders Kruger National Park on the east of the district have a challenge in a far as access roads is concern. The gravel roads are in bad conditions and they make it difficult for the transportation of goods and services and movement of public transports in general i.e Roads in Bevula, Makashule, Magona, Muchipisi and Gidjana. There are many commodities in these areas such as abandoned mining activities (Fumani mines), agricultural schemes, Shangoni gate to the Kruger National Park. There is also a need for lodges in the area to support the tourists when the visit Kruger National Park. Gidjana area also holds a lot of tourism potential, which need to be taken forward in order to enter into the mainstream economy.

Chavani area also has a potential for agriculture, as there are dams such as Makhubele dam. The dam needs to be improved and augmented in order to improve its capacity and ability to supply the surrounding agricultural irrigation schemes.

Malamulele FPSU

The intervention area is close to the FPSU to be located in Malamulele area. Malamulele is a fastest growing rural town in terms of infrastructure and other developments. Development of the unit in this area will facilitate and assist farmers and investors with information, market opportunities and other related services. It will also act as a feeder to the Agri-Hub located in Nwanedi area which is approximately 102km away or the Agri-Hub located in Tzaneen which is approximately 138km away.

The intervention area is close to Malamulele and Thohoyandou towns where there are supermarkets and shops where the commodities can be sold.
MAP 26: MALAMULELE FPSU.
Special commodities/niches

Agriculture

The intervention area two has potential of Agriculture predominantly crop farming although there is also little evidence of livestock rearing within the intervention area.

Crop farming

Levubu River is one of the most importance water suppliers that people rely on in as far as crop farming is concern. However, small portion of the river passes across the intervention area. There are thriving schemes such as Dovheni scheme that need to be supported. There are a lot of non-perennial streams that traverses in Bevula, Makashule, Magona, Muchipisi, plange and Gidjana area. The area has good soil for framing but the only challenge is scarcity of water. There is therefore a need for inventing more ways to harvest and store water for agricultural purposes.

Animal farming

There is little evidence for animal farming although there are many cattle and goats in the area. The closeness of the area to the national park makes it difficult for the red meat to be sold into the market due to the foot and mouth disease. There is still a lot that need to be done in terms of developing animal farming in the area.

Fishing

Fishing is one of the booming activities in the rivers and dams within this intervention area. Fish is harvested from the (Nandoni dam and Luvuvhu river) and sold to the local the people at low price. The activity needs to be regulated since it is not allowed by law to fish without licence. There is therefore a need for taking the activity forward and make it a viable business.

Mining

There is evidence of mining in Bevula, Makashule, Magona, Muchipisi, Plange and Gidjana area although most of the mines are closed. There is therefore need for doing further research to determine the viability of the non-functional and potential mines in the area. Fumani gold mines existed in the area therefore there is a need for the revitalisation of the mine so as it will contribute to the district’s economy.

Tourism
There is a proposal to open Shangoni gate to the public as it is currently used by the staff members. This will create business opportunities in the area and boost employment. The local community will also be able to sell their products to the tourists visiting the area.

**Mopani Worms** (Imbrasia Belina) are widely used as protein and offer a source of income to the rural poor in Vhembe especially in Intervention area 2 and 6. Despite the widespread use of mopani worms, farming methods for this type of farming have not been developed.

Mopani worms are harvested from Mopani trees in the areas close to the Kruger National Park by the local community. There is an untapped 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 within the towns and the villages. If the commodity is well researched and marketed, there could be a greater unique opportunity in the mainstream economy. The research for this type of farming includes 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 yields as well as maintain the wild population levels. Processing and storage techniques aimed to improve the quality of the product and thus potentially increasing the financial return from the sale of high quality Mopani worms.

**Marula tree**

This is one of the dominant commodities in the Vhembe 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. 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 the Marula a commodity that will enter the mainstream economy. Apart from beer, the nut inside the seed is known for making oils and ointments. People make beer and sell it on the street for low price.

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 used for tomato boxes and toilet seats. The Marula is protected in communal land under the local chiefs. Because of its leafy foliage and shade-bearing size, it is popular in the villages and more often than not in ploughed fields the marula tree will be the only one left standing. The Marula tree is often the spiritual place for ritual activities in kraals and villages.

The bark of the tree has medicinal properties and is used widely in treating dysentery and diarrhea, rheumatism, insect bites and a variety of other ailments. Essence from the leaves is said to provide a remedy for abscesses, spider bites and burns. Preliminary tests show some pharmacological activity to hypertension, anti-inflammation and painkilling.

**Challenges**
• Illegal sand mining along the Luvuvhu river banks
• Poor regulations for fishing
• Poor access roads
• Lack of/poor enforcement on deforesting Mopani tree
• Little or no feasibility and researches in terms of mining resources
• Collapsing agricultural schemes due to lack of infrastructure and supports
• Water and irrigation infrastructure scarcity

Selected Projects Overview

Jika farmer’s cooperation

• The scheme has 7 members and it supplies to the local villages and shops.
• They are facing a challenge of theft and vandalism such as cutting of fences and stealing of vegetables, which affects their profit.
• They also need proper marketing so that the can penetrate into the mainstream economy.

Xigalo irrigation scheme

• The scheme is no longer functional due to the management and administration problems, it therefore need to be revitalized.
• Apart from the schemes mentioned above, there are various schemes in the area that need to be marketed and developed. i.e. Makuleke, Mafumandila farm production, Phidibi scheme, Altein irrigation scheme, Plange Young farmers, Mabayeni Irrigation Scheme, Mashibiyeni Irrigation scheme.
• There is a mine at Mtititi, which needs to be developed further so that it can change the livelihood of the communities. The mining commodities include phosphate and magnesium.

Nandoni Dam

• The dam was developed from Mutoti dam by the Department of Water Affairs with the reason to supply water to the entire province.
• The dam is a major tourist attraction point with a lot of recreational facilities around it. The dam is located right in the middle of rural communities i.e Dumasi, Mulenzhe, Budeli, Dididi and others. Apart from the tourism element, people from the local areas catch fish in the dam for consumption and for selling in order to get money to feed their families although this needs to be regulated.
There are many schemes for example Dovheni agricultural scheme that exists along the Levubu River which is part of the dam. The scheme is doing well although it needs further marketing. Nandoni Dam is a tourism its own right.

7.4.2 Intervention Area 3: Xikundu, Mhinga, Gaba, Matiyani, Lambani and Tshifudi

This intervention area consists of Xikundu, Mhinga, Gaba, Matiyani, Lambani and Tshifudi amongst other villages. The 524 main road traverse through the centre of the settlement cluster and connects it to the Thohoyandou and Pundamaria gates located in the east of Kruger National Park.

The following are some of the projects and areas visited with specific niches/commodities that need special intervention.
MAP 28: NEW ARCHER FACTORY IN TSHIFUDI AREA.
Special commodities/niches

Agriculture

Crop farming is the dominant agriculture in the intervention area. There are a lot of Mangos and citrus fruits that are sold to local markets and factories. There is also a market for vegetables along the Luvuvhu River, which cut across the intervention area and joins the Mutale River toward the Limpopo River. There are a lot of agricultural activities taking place in Tshaulu, Buluni and all villages along the Luvuhu River. Majority of the schemes owned by cooperatives in the vicinity are facing similar challenges such as lack of capacity, infrastructure and operating capital.

Most of the schemes have collapsed since the collapse of the Agriven which helped a lot of farmed with infrastructure, knowledge and connection to the markets.

The Department of Rural development and Land Reform has constructed an Atchar factor in Tshifudi area. This will help in processing mangoes from the village still they are produced in large numbers.

Animal farming also exists in the area and it needs to be enhanced so that it can incooperated into the mainstream economy. So far cattle and animals are sold to local butcheries at low costs.

Small-scale mining

Sand mining and stone crushing exist in this intervention area along the Luvuvhu River and it needs to be regulated since it has negative implications to the environment. Further research need to be conducted on how best it can be done without harming the environment.

Tourism

Punda Maria gate also exists in the functional region leading to the Kruger National Park along the R 524 road in Matiyani village. At this moment, the existence of the gate is not bringing any economic transformation to the surrounding communities. However, the local municipality has already made initiatives to develop the area so that it can enhance the lives of the rural communities in the close proximity.
Proximity to the Market/FPSU and Agri-Hub

The intervention area is approximately 85km away from the Agri-Hub in Nwanedi and approximately 170km away from the Tzaneen Agri-Hub.

Tshaulu FPSU (Proposed as a result of in-loco inspections)

Tshaulu is one of the growing rural towns in terms of infrastructure development. The town has with government departments and social facilities. The town has attracted a lot of investors and there are plans for the erection of a shopping complex.

Development of a FPSU in this area will assist local farmers in terms of skills, information and all the relevant services. It will also assist the surrounding village since it will be a feeder to the Agri-Hub.

Tshaulu area is in Thulamela municipality 55km east of Thohoyandou town, there is police station, post office and periodical magistrate court, SASSA and Health (clinic). Tshaulu has a municipal land that will make it to speed up development without any hindrances in as far as land claims are concerned.

There is development potential in the area earmarked by private developers in conjunction with the community for the development of a shopping centre, filling station, taxi and bus rank and a multi-purpose centre. Tshaulu is one of the precinct areas for the Thulamela local municipality and it provides services to the deprived rural areas around.

The following are the projects that needs to be undertaken in the area in order to boost the local economy:

Agriculture

- Revitalisation of former Agriven crop scheme (60 ha)
- Mango atchar production plant
- Revitalisation of cooperatives schemes
- Revitalisation of boreholes

Tourism

- Development of picnic site along Xikundu water dam at Mahamba
- Construction of lodge/hotel in the town
- Construction of community hall
- Construction of roads to tourism sites

Mining

- Erection of stone crushers plants for the community
- Management and regulation of Brickyards allocation
- Regulation of sand mining business

**Challenges**

- Illegal sand mining
- Abandoned agricultural schemes
- Poor access roads to the commodities

**Matiyani village**

The village is located close to Kruger national park through Punda Maria gate. Houses in the area are still not developed. There is an indication of existence of poverty in the area. The village is still under developed. However its proximity to Kruger National Park presents a huge tourism potential to the village. Gravel roads need to be tarred or maintained on regular bases to strengthen and improve the supply of good and services and also to improve tourism and marketing of goods.

**Punda Maria gate**

This is one of many gates of Kruger National Park located in the Matiyane village. The gate at this moment does not have any attraction forces to development and investments in the area as compared to other gates. The municipality has therefore taken an initiative to develop it as a node so that it can attract many investment opportunities, by that, it means that the villages close by will benefit through the business opportunities and tourists entering and leaving the park.
Mafumandila and Phidibi irrigation schemes

There are schemes along the Luvuvhu River. The area is productive and the schemes sell products to the local markets. The challenges in these schemes are similar; they do not have a proper market, infrastructure and there is also theft in the area which affects production.
Tshifudi Village

Tshifudi Atchar factory is located within the Tshifudi village, the factory that was constructed with the help of the local municipality. The factory is not yet functional but the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (REID section) is in the process of assisting with a processing plant. Accessibility to the area is also a challenge because the road is not tarred. The area could serve as a future FPSU.

Atchar factory in Tshifudi Village

7.5 DFR 5: Nwanedi Functional Region

The region is the locality of the proposed Agrihub which will allow for the processing of goods and services. The focus of the Agri-Hub is primarily the processing of ‘agricultural products’ as well as ‘non-agricultural’ products. Linkages between the Agri-Hubs and surrounding agricultural land for production is very vital. This includes the identified and proposed FPSUs and the niche products. The movement of unprocessed goods from the source which can be smallholder irrigation products, or agricultural output from subsistence farmers or the identified the FPSUs which will lead to the Agri-Hubs for processing. Nwanedi area is under the Rambuda traditional authority’s jurisdiction (state land); therefore, it will make it easy for it to be developed without any land availability complications.

Nwanedi area is close to Folovhodwe and Gumela villages and it has a strong tourist attraction point which is underutilised i.e Nwanedi dam and nature reserve. The Nature reserve was a strong point of attraction with big five animals and it attracted investors from abroad. It had a strong economic boost to the local economy since local people were benefiting from the tourists visiting the area.

Nwanedi dam supplies majority of villages in the vicinity with water is also a strong attraction point that needs to be revitalised and used in an optimum and maximum manner. Lupepe River feeds the dam with water together with other rivers and rivulets. There are also a lot of agricultural activities in the vicinity that needs to be taken forward.

There is also mining component (Magnesium) in the area that need to be further researched to determine its feasibility on whether government should invest in the commodity or not.
Dzanani FPSU

Dzanani is this area’s fastest growing location in terms of infrastructure development. This area is the centre of activities in the southwestern part of the intervention area and it is linked to major road networks such as N1 and the R 523 roads. There is an existing shopping centre, government facilities, private markets such as Rhodes food group and industries.

Development of the unit in this area will assist all vegetable and grain farmers in the vicinity and it also has a direct link to the Agri-Hub although the road networks need to be upgraded i.e. D3671 road via Tshituni Maangani and Smokey.
Map 29: FUNCTIONAL REGION 5
However, accessibility to the Agri-Hub will always remain a challenge if the conditions of the roads are not improved. The Agri-Hub is accessed from four points i.e road connecting to the R 525 onward to Folovhodwe village, Shakadza road, Gumela/Gundani/Musunda road and Smokey/Dolo-Doli (D3671) road. All these roads linking to the proposed Agri-Hub need to be tarred to enhance accessibility and proper flow.

7.5.1 **Intervention Area 6: Domboni, Matavhela, Malale, Tshipise, Bennnde Mutale, Dzanani, Dopeni, Sane, Mudimeli and other Villages.**

This intervention area is located within functional region 5. It is located mainly in Mutale and Musina municipalities although some of the commodities are located in Thulamela municipality. Most villages in this intervention area will be shared by Musina municipality and Thulamela municipality since Mutale municipality is to be disestablished. There area can also be linked to Thohoyandou FR via local roads although majority of them are not tarred. Poor gravel roads hinder development especially in agricultural and tourism sectors.

- There is a node with various economic activities. There are informal traders as well selling different products including fruits from the local schemes. The settlements in this area are being upgraded.
- The area has potential for sweet potatoes, potatoes, tomatoes and maize.
- There are existing tourism attraction areas within the villages that need to be upgraded. These attraction areas are Fundudzi Lake, Tshatshingo Pot Holes, Holly Forest, Makuya Park, Big Tree, Sagole Spar Hot Springs, Bako La Tshavhadinda, Mphephu resort, Dzata ruins and other points of attraction.
- Tshikondeni mine also exits in the region and it has played an important role in changing the lives of the people in the area through providing employment opportunities and donating some infrastructure projects to the community.
- There are also prospected mineral rights in Mudimeli area, which are in the process of being implemented.
- The schemes along the R525 road from Masisi via Madimbo, Malale, Folovhodwe, Nwanedi are also crucial in providing job opportunities for the local people. They need to be linked to the mainstream economy in order to gain access to external markets. The schemes are close to the proposed Agri-Hub site and the Agro processing plant in Musina.
- There is also an existing market for goats and cattle farming in the area. This is done on an individual basis and it is also affected by its close proximity to Kruger National Park, which poses a Foot and Mouth disease threat.
• The Nwanedi Game Reserve is located in this area. This was a well established game reserve and hosted the big 5 but it is now partially dilapidated and has lost its potential.

• There is also an Agro processing unit in Tshandama village close to the Mutale River being developed by the District. This is definitely a positive initiative towards enhancing agriculture in the area.
Special Commodities/niches

This intervention area possesses a lot of special commodities that are not well developed and maintained. Development of an Agri-Hub in Nwanedi area will assist a lot of farmers and investors in this region since it will be accessible from many villages.

The following are the commodities or special niches in the area:

Agriculture

In this area, agriculture is divided into Crop and animal farming and furthermore it is also categorised into commercial and subsistence farming

Crop farming

Due to the availability of the perennial rivers in the areas, there is a lot of crop farming taking place in the area. The following are the rivers that are located in the area

Nzhelele River

This river traverses from Nzhelele dam via Rabali, Fondwe village until Holly Forest Lake and there are a lot of schemes along the river that need to be marketed and capacitated so that they can enter the mainstream economy. The agricultural schemes /activities from Fondwe, Mphaila, Mandala, Rabali, Ha-Mapila and villages along the Nzhelele river possess a lot of opportunities in as far as crop farming is concerned.

Majority of crops in the area are Maize, vegetables (cabbage and spinach), tomatoes and Mangos and they are sold to local markets. Rhodes food group in Dzanani is also one of the strongest client for the local products especially tomatoes. However, the products from the agricultural schemes are also sold to Pick and pay, Spar and other super markets. Majority of farmers have supply contracts with the supermarkets. The farmers will have to take advantage for the river and use it fully for maximum production.

Lupepe/Nwanedi River

Lupepe river stretches from Tshamulungwi area and feeds the Nwanedi dam then stretches to Malale, Folovhodwe, Madimdo area until Limpopo river. A lot of crop farming is taking place along this river. People in the vicinity must therefore take advantage of the river and use it to the maximum capacity. Although Folovhode to Malale belt creates great potential for crop farming in this region, the availability of the Agri-Hub within close proximity will influence farming in this area more.
**Mutale River**

Mutale River is one of the longest river stretching from Fundudzi lake to Limpopo river which separate South Africa and Zimbabwe. There is a lot of crop farming activity along this river. One of the examples of the schemes is Mbaela/Tshiombo scheme, which has existed for many years although it had its own administrative challenges that led to its closure. There is a lot of potential in terms of agriculture along Mutale River that needs to be tapped into in order to boost the local economy.

There are many rivers that exist in this intervention area that can support crop farming activity and boost the local economy to enhance rural economic transformation. However, through man-made and natural challenges, there is a lot that needs to be done in order to conserve and preserve water as one of the most important resources in as far as agricultural development is concerned.

The intervention area also has a lot of commercial farmers who have employed a lot of people such as ZZ2 in the Malale area and local farmers such as Mr Nesane in Sane/Mangwele area.

**Animal farming**

The dry land area also known as Niani by the locals within this intervention area has a lot of potential in terms of production of goats, sheep and cattle. They are sold to local markets, abattoirs and butcheries in a subsistence way. Although the area is close the Kruger national park where there is constants threat of Foot and Mouth disease, there is a great potential for red and white meat market in the area. Foot and mouth disease is spread by buffalos from the Kruger National Park to the animals although is a periodical disease. Availability of the Agri-Hub in the vicinity will therefore enhance meat market in the area.

**Tourism**

The intervention area has a vast of tourism potential that need to be unlocked in order to boost the local economy. Most of the tourism points are lying abandoned and underutilised because if various reasons such as poor capacity, lack of infrastructure and poor marketing. To mention a few the following are the tourism attraction points in the functional region and intervention area in general.

**Nwanedi nature reserve**

The nature reserve was very strong before 1994 era and it attracts a lot of tourist from different parts of the world. The facility had big five animals, dams and accommodation
facilities. The facility collapse or it lost its capacity and performance and at this moment it is not functioning to its full potential. The villages close to it used to benefit immensely because tourists use to buy man-made artefacts and also buy products from local businesses.

There is therefore a need for strong intervention from government and private sectors so that the facility will be refurbished and it operates to its full potential again.

**Mphephu resort**

The facility is known for its natural hot spring water that it produces, however it is not functioning to its full capacity. There is also a strong intervention needed in this area so that it can boost the local economy. The facility is close to Tshavhalovhedzi, Tshithuthuni, Siloam, and other villages in the proximity. The development of this facility can lead to the upliftment of the local economy and the surrounding villages can benefit.

The intervention area also has places such as Dzata ruins, Nzhelele dam, Cap sites and other tourism attraction points.

**Pafuri Gate to the Kruger National Park**

Pafuri gate is one of the gates leading to the Kruger National Park along the R525 road. The gate is located in Bennde-Mutale village on the far east of the intervention area. At this moment the existence of the gate has minimum importance in the economy of the area. However, it needs to be developed as a node so that it can attract other developments and investors.

**Proposed border gate to Zimbabwe**

There is a proposal for the development of a border post in Mutele, Nkotswi and Bennde-Mutale villages. The border gate will be located next to Awelani lodge in the eastern part of the intervention area. The availability of the border gate will help in attracting investment opportunities and also developing tourism potential further.

**Mining**

The area has a lot of potential in terms of mining although some of the mines are closed. However, there are prospected rights for coal in Mudimeli area and the surroundings, which still need to be researched further. If indeed the mine exists in the future, it will therefore transform the economy of the rural area through the beneficiation scheme and other incentives.

Tshikondeni coal mine has existed for many years and its existence has benefited the local communities immensely.
Magnesium mine in Folovhodwe needs further research to determine if it still has the potential to be used in future. There are also other prospected rights in the area.
**Mpesu tree**

This tree is known country wide as an enhancer for men’s sexual ability and a lot of people are taking advantage of the tree by selling it country wide. Some people have started packaging it and selling it to the pharmacies. Apart from this well-known use, the tree has a lot of other traditional uses.

The roots of the tree can be used for treatments to human ailments such as coughs, chest ailment, toothaches, gout, fevers, constipation, diabetes and microbial infections. It also possesses anti-inflammatory properties that help to reduce arthritic pains. A combination of both methanol extract and methyl salicylate component from the roots of the plant create a poison that is used for multiple purposes. The roots are used to prevent mental disorders and it is believed that this remedy will also protect children from illnesses during breastfeeding. In addition, the roots are used to treat people possessed with evil spirits and on snakebites. Soap, fishing nets, and baskets can be made from the bark of the tree. This tree is also used to assist some subsistence farmers in maintaining stored grains. Subsistence farmers grind the bark and roots of this tree and use the powder as a pesticide against various beetles.

There is a need for further research on the benefits of this tree and how to the products can be processed and marketed, thus creating a business opportunity.

**Challenges**

The following are the potential challenges that are affecting rural development in the area and they need to be curbed in order to enhance production in this intervention area.

**Sand mining** - This is taking place in most rivers in the intervention area and it is not regulated. This is one of the threats to the environment. Fine sand is being mined from river banks and in the process, riverine vegetation is being destroyed, especially due to vehicle movement. This removal of vegetation from the riverbanks results in loss or disruption of the stabilising effects on the banks and riverbed. This in turn leads to increased erosion during rains and floods. The river channels are interfered with hence having a negative effect on the habitat for aquatic organisms which depend on the vegetated pools for survival during light rain or dry seasons. Sand mining appears to be uncontrolled and needs to be regulated to minimise the negative impacts on the river system.

Sand mining is a listed activity in terms of the National Environmental Management Act and must undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment process. It seems unlikely that the sand mining activities in this catchment have been properly evaluated in an EIA, and all appear to
be poorly managed. It should also be noted that regulations concerning sand mining have recently been reviewed and changed.

Majority of the people who own brickyards and other facilities mine sand for the manufacturing of bricks and related products in order to sell to the markets and developers. Although they do not have permission from the Department of Mineral Resources, they get permission from the tribal leaders and they pay fees but justice is not done to the environment.

In addition to the above, there is need for government to intervene on the following:

- Drought
- Poor road conditions
- Stock theft
- Insufficient capacity building and support
- Poor research and feasibility studies in commodities
- Delays in land claims
- Illegal land occupation
- Land disputes.
- Insufficient involvement of Agricultural extension officers
8 SECTION EIGHT – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This section also builds on the status quo analysis as well as findings emanating from the distillation of district, provincial and national strategic spatial and economic development plans. Moreover, inputs from multi-stakeholder engagements inform the proposed strategic interventions outlined in the subsequent pages. Developmental challenges in Vhembe are multifaceted and needs to be addressed; these range from aspects mentioned below:

- Majority of the land is used for farming purposes and that results in constant environmental threats.
- Majority of the land is privately owned or owned by traditional authorities and that affects land availability.
- Approximately 59% of the land in Musina is privately owned and that hinders the availability of land.
- Due to the issue of land claims, there is no ability to develop land. The Musina town planning scheme focuses on the urban areas of the local municipality and neglects the rural areas.
- Land invasion and illegal demarcation of sites in proclaimed areas by traditional authorities.
- Majority of the land falls under traditional authorities and that hinders development. There is no land for development in Sibasa and Thohoyandou.

However, there exists untapped potential and opportunities that can act as important leavers for unlocking inclusive and sustainable rural development in the district.

Intervention areas have high potential for development in the agriculture and tourism front as Intervention Area 1 is close to the Levubu area, known in the country wide for producing quality fruits. However, access to roads leading to the commodities are in bad conditions which needs improvement. There are Agricultural schemes that need to be capacitated in terms of knowledge and infrastructure. There is Mpheni Agricultural Irrigation Scheme which specialise on selling their produce to local people in the area and it is managed by six members. Within the Mpheni village, community members are engaged in subsistence farming. This could be seen as a way to supplement their income and their own food security. Some of them sell their produce to big retailers such as Shoprite and Pick ‘n Pay. Thohoyandou (FR3) is the commercial, administrative and legislative centre for the district. It is a bustling centre of commerce, well served with shopping complexes, an interesting museum, as well as a hotel and casino of international standards. On the main road between Makhado and the Kruger National Park there is the lush agricultural center of Venda, with its
banana plantations, acres of sub-tropical fruit, tobacco and maize lands. The villages are close to Kruger national park on the east hence there is a lot of tourism potential to be unveiled.

The proposed interventions are also informed by an appreciation of complex relational economic, socio-spatial and environmental factors that define the district’s development milieu. As the primary unit of analysis and intervention is the district, the proposed interventions do not purport to be pitted at a ward or village level. However, it must be noted that there exist numerous local plans that take into account village-specific needs, notably the local IDPs, LED strategies, and sector-specific plans. The salience of this district rural development plan is that it contributes to a broader family of strategic spatial and economic development plans aimed at fast-tracking integrated rural transformation and development.

The analysis of Vhembe at a district level allows for the tracing and subsequent mapping of relational flows of goods, commodities, people and capital within and across the district. The existing economic system in Vhembe therefore, is best captured through the employment of a functional regional approach. A function regional approach to rural development creates conditions that allow for the identification of places and/or nodes that can act as developmental nuclei and catalysts for broader regional development. A functional regional approach also takes into account the synergic and/or symbiotic relationships between existing and potential development nodes and their hinterlands.
## 8.1 Rural Development Programmes and Projects Categorisation

Table 7: Rural development Programmes and Projects Categorisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Programmes &amp; Projects</th>
<th>Characterisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District-wide programme &amp; projects</td>
<td>❖ <em>District economic game changers</em> - these are projects that profoundly redefine and/or alter the structure of a given district economy. Examples include Agri-Parks and related physical Infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>❖ <em>District social needs projects and programmes</em> – these support immediate social needs at a district level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>❖ <em>District development enablers</em> – projects that provide enabling infrastructure at a district levels. These include building of roads, large-scale housing, and dams for instance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village &amp; Household Survival Strategies</td>
<td>❖ <em>Household microenterprises</em> – 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>❖ <em>Village microenterprises</em> – these are projects that for a community to participate, usually seasonally. These include picking, processing and selling mopani worms; communal growing of vegetables (small-scale agricultural cooperatives)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While the district-wide projects and programmes require more financial investment from government and the private sector; village and household survival strategies are more often than not driven by the community through various grass-root structures. These include community-based organisations, traditional leaders as well as other recognised community development champions. There is a need however for the government, the public sector, academia and other stakeholders in development to invest in the promotion, and in some instance, commercialisation of village survival projects and programmes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION / ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>TIMEFRAMES</th>
<th>LEAD ROLE</th>
<th>STAKEHOLDERS</th>
<th>KPI's</th>
<th>LOCALITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Promoting micro-enterprises and survival strategies in rural villages and households through supporting of small scale farmers.</td>
<td>Development, marketing and commercialisation of the Mopani worm value chain in the Mopani worm region</td>
<td>Community Survival strategy</td>
<td>1. Feasibility study of the development of the Mopani worm value chain in Vhembe, Mopani and other areas consisting the Mopani worm region 2. Evaluate the economic cost commercialising the Mopani worm value chain 3. Pilot projects on small-scale Mopani worm farming in Mopani worm regions</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>Department of water/DRDLR/ commercial farmers/ emerging farmers/ community/ SETA's</td>
<td>1. Feasibility study completed and reviewed 2. Projects identified and approved 3. Project plans in place 4. Farmer education programmes rolled out</td>
<td>Vhembe DM, Mopani DM and all Mopani worm regions in Limpopo</td>
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**TABLE 9: IN-LOCO PROJECTS IDENTIFIED**

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<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
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<th>LEAD ROLE</th>
<th>KPI's</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>Revitalisation of the Xigalo irrigation scheme. (Water Infrastructure)</td>
<td>Reconstitute the Xigalo irrigation scheme project</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major Enabler</td>
<td>1. Identify the reasons for the project stalling e.g. management and administrative challenges 2. source and introduce a strategic partner to assist the project 3. establish a skills development programmes for people involved in the scheme</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>1. Needs analysis completed 2. Strategic partner sourced and on board 3. successful delivery of Skills development programmes</td>
<td>Intervention area 2 (Xigalo, Makuleke, Mafumandila farm production, Phididi irrigation scheme, Altein irrigation scheme, Plange Young farmers, Mabayeni Irrigation Scheme, Mashibiyeni Irrigation scheme)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving productivity &amp; competitiveness of the agriculture sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Utilise farms in the Levubu area allocate funding for investment in new machinery and equipment. Sending output for processing to Agriparks</td>
<td>Resolve conflicts among the beneficiaries of farms in the Levubu area in the VDM</td>
<td>Key enabler</td>
<td>1. Meet with community/traditional leaders to understand the nature of the conflicts 2. Engage beneficiaries to understand the nature of conflicts 3. Host conflict resolution sessions with beneficiaries</td>
<td>Short to medium term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>1. Number of conflict resolution sessions held with beneficiaries 2. Number of working farms in Levubu</td>
<td>Functional region 2 (Levubu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</td>
<td>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/ PROJECTS</td>
<td>PROJECT TYPE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving productivity &amp; competitiveness of the agriculture sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Provide equipment for irrigation schemes. (Water Infrastructure)</td>
<td>Fast track the development irrigation schemes in Dishumele and Mpheni</td>
<td>Key enabler</td>
<td>1. Identify the equipment needed for the schemes e.g. pipes for water and irrigation equipment 2. source funding to buy the equipment 3. Provide equipment to the irrigation schemes 4. Monitor the success of the schemes</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>1. Needs analysis completed 2. Number of pieces of equipment provided 3. Working irrigation schemes in Dishumele and Mpheni 3. Increase in income from farming</td>
<td>Intervention area 1 (Mpheni village)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural revitalisation</td>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>Build up the small scale mining industry in VDM</td>
<td>Leverage the minerals prospected in the Tshimbupfe and Mtititi areas</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>1. Conduct feasibility studies for the mining of minerals in Tshimbupfe and Mtititi 2. Put in place support for small scale mining operations 2. Skills training for small scale mining ventures</td>
<td>Medium to long term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>1. Number of emerging mining operations created 2. Increase in growth in the mining sector 3. Number of mining jobs created 4. Increase in income levels</td>
<td>Intervention area 1 (Tshimbupfe) Intervention area 2 (Mtititi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</td>
<td>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/ PROJECTS</td>
<td>PROJECT TYPE</td>
<td>DESCRIPTION/ ACTIVITIES</td>
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</table>
| Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation | Transportation and infrastructure | Build on the established road network in the region | Improve access to urban and rural areas in the VDM | Catalytic - Major Enabler | 1. Develop the road infrastructure required in areas leading to the Awelani Lodge  
2. Maintenance and or tarring of the access road leading up to the Pfukani Bakery  
3. Road maintenance in the areas around Vuwani  
4. Tarring of the road leading up to the Atchar factory in Tshifudi village to improve accessibility to the factory | Medium term | Vhembe DM | 1. Number of rural roads developed  
Intervention area 1 (Tshifundi and Chivani)  
Intervention area 3 (Tshifudi)  
Intervention area 5 (Vuwani)  
Matangati-Dzimauli, Tshandama-Ha-Khakhu, Matavhela-Tshixwadza, Bevula, Magona, Makashule, bumgeni, Majosi and other areas | |
| Promoting Integrated Human Settlements | Sustainable human settlements | Reduction of service delivery backlogs | Address the need for housing in the area of Matiyani village | High Priority programme | 1. Conduct feasibility studies for the development of housing projects in Matiyani  
2. Expansion and maintenance of roads, water, electricity supply in the village and surrounds  
3. Put refuse removal and waste management processes in place | Medium to long term | Vhembe DM | 1. Number of new housing units provided  
2. New social infrastructure developed/built  
3. Suitable land identified for housing projects  
4. Number of sanitation facilities built | Intervention area 3 (Matiyani Village) |
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<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Improving tourism competitiveness | Tourism | Promotion of the Vhembe region and its attractions | Specific targeting of the Fundudzi Lake, Tshatshingo Pot Holes, Holly Forest, Makuya Park, Big Tree, Sagole Spar Hot Springs and Bako la Tshavhadinda | Catalytic - Game Changer | 1. Develop tourism brochures and materials  
3. Train local tourist guides  
4. Package and promote tourism destinations  
5. Support the development of community and local tourism | Short to medium term | Vhembe DM | 1. Tourism brochures available  
2. Community members trained  
3. Jobs created | Intervention area 6 (Makuya, Tshiavha, Damani, Phiphidi, Tshipise/domdoni, Dzimali and Tshiungani) |
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<th>KPI's</th>
<th>LOCALITY/ INTERVENTION AREA</th>
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</table>
| Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector     | Agriculture | Increase supply of water for agricultural use (water infrastructure)                  | Develop projects that address Water shortages that impede the development of agriculture in the district | Catalytic - Game Changer     | 1. Feasibility study of large scale irrigation schemes in the VDM  
2. Investigate alternative sources of water supply including surface water schemes, and the re-use of water  
3. Develop a plan to reconcile future water requirements                                                                                                         | Medium to Long term | Vhembe DM | Department of water/DRDLR/ commercial farmers/ emerging farmers/ community  
1. Feasibility study completed and reviewed.  
2. Projects identified and approved  
3. Project plans in place                                                                                                                                  | Vhembe DM     |                                        |
| Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector     | Agriculture | addressing the effects of climate change on agriculture                               | Put in place plans to address counteracting the effects of climate change in the DM                  | Catalytic - Major Enabler    | 1. Feasibility study of the development of farm level mitigation methods eg avoiding excess nitrogen/fertilisers, crop choices, etc  
2. Evaluate the economic cost of interventions  
3. Develop a plan                                                                                                                                     | Medium to Long term | Vhembe DM | Department of water/DRDLR/ commercial farmers/ emerging farmers/ community/ SETA's  
1. Feasibility study completed and reviewed.  
2. Projects identified and approved  
3. Project plans in place  
4. Farmer education programmes rolled out                                                                                                               | Vhembe DM     |                                        |
<table>
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<th>KPI's</th>
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</table>
| Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector     | Agriculture | Agri-Hub establishment & development in Nwanedi and as well as utilising its potential | Development of Agri-Hub to foster small and medium-scale agricultural development | Catalytic - Game Changer | 1. Development of Agri-villages around Nwanedi settlements                             | Immediate  | Vhembe DM | DRDLR/Traditional authorities/community | 1. Number of small Scale farmers supported  
2 Relevant R&D in the agricultural sector  
3. Number of markets identified and expanded  
4. Number of niche commodities identified | Functional region 1 (Nwanedi/Gumela village) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/ PROJECTS</th>
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<th>STAKEHOLDERS</th>
<th>KPI's</th>
<th>LOCALITY/ INTERVENTION AREA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Farmer Production Support Unit development in identified areas as well as utilizing its potential</td>
<td>Development of the FPSU for primary collection, storage, processing for the local market, and extension services including mechanisation</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>1. Review existing FPSU plans and objectives 2. Incorporate into a development plan for identified areas 3. Access funding 4. Implement projects 5. Monitor success of projects</td>
<td>Immediate</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>DRDLR/ DAFF/ Dept of small business/ Traditional authorities/ community/ commercial farmers/ private sector/ Emerging farmers</td>
<td>1. FPSUs identified and developed</td>
<td>Tshaulu, Masisi, Dzanani, Malamulele and Matsila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Increase supply of water for agricultural use (water infrastructure)</td>
<td>Develop projects that address Water shortages that impede the development of agriculture in the district</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>1. Feasibility study of large scale irrigation schemes in the VDM 2. Investigate alternative sources of water supply including surface water schemes, and the re-use of water 3. Develop a plan to reconcile future water requirements</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Department of water/DRD/LR/ commercial farmers/ emerging farmers/ community</td>
<td>1. Feasibility study completed and reviewed. 2. Projects identified and approved 3. Project plans in place</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</td>
<td>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</td>
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</table>
| Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector    | Agriculture          | Addressing the effects of climate change on agriculture | Put in place plans to address counteracting the effects of climate change in the DM | Catalytic - Major Enabler    | 1. Feasibility study of the development of farm level mitigation methods eg avoiding excess nitrogen/fertilisers, crop choices, etc  
2. Evaluate the economic cost of interventions  
3. Develop a plan to roll out the programme to local farmers | Medium to Long term  | Vhembe DM                              | Department of water/DRDLR/ commercial farmers/ emerging farmers/ community/ SETA's | 1. Feasibility study completed and reviewed  
2. Projects identified and approved  
3. Project plans in place  
4. Farmer education programmes rolled out | Vhembe DM             |
| Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation | Sustainable human settlements | Renewal of rural towns and formalisation of Rural Towns | Identifying towns in Vhembe for revitalisation programmes | High Priority programme  | 1. Promoting the renewal of Rural Towns and Villages.  
3. Investment in Physical Infrastructure in the DM | Medium to Long term  | Vhembe DM                              | Department of human settlements/ Regional and International Development Agencies/ Private Sector/ Traditional authorities/ communities | 1. Rural renewal projects identified  
2. Infrastructure development projects completed | Vhembe DM             |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</th>
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<th>LOCALITY/INTERVENTION AREA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation</td>
<td>Sustainable human settlements</td>
<td>Renewal of rural towns and formalisation of Rural Towns</td>
<td>Identifying towns in Vhembe for revitalisation programmes</td>
<td>High Priority programme</td>
<td>1. Promoting the renewal of Rural Towns and Villages. 2. Completion of Current Rural Development-Oriented Projects. 3. Investment in Physical Infrastructure in the DM</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Department of human settlements/Regional and International Development Agencies/Private Sector/Traditional authorities/communities</td>
<td>1. Rural renewal projects identified 2. Infrastructure development projects completed</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation</td>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>Build up the small scale mining industry in VDM</td>
<td>Leverage the minerals prospected in the Tshimbupfe and Mtititi areas</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>1. Conduct feasibility studies for the mining of minerals in Tshimbupfe and Mtititi 2. Put in place support for small scale mining operations 2. Skills training for small scale mining ventures</td>
<td>Medium to long term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Department of Minerals and Energy/Private sector mining houses/financial institutions/SETA's</td>
<td>1. Number of emerging mining operations created 2. Increase in growth in the mining sector 3. Number of mining jobs created 4. Increase in income levels</td>
<td>Intervention area 1 (Tshimbupfe) Intervention area 2 (Mtititi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</td>
<td>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/ PROJECTS</td>
<td>PROJECT TYPE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation</td>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Development of a renewable energy research park</td>
<td>Development of a 'laboratory' for renewable energy research and demonstration</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>1. Develop a feasibility study for Vhembe DM to establish the viability of a renewable energy park to increase the visibility of renewable energy technologies 2. Consideration of various forms of renewable energy including solar projects, hydro power and micro wind 3. Engage local community 4. Identify pilot areas 5. Market and promote the venture 6. Identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Department of minerals and energy</td>
<td>DRDLR/Eskom/ Independent Power Producers/ Regional and International Development Agencies/ Private Sector/ Universities/ community</td>
<td>1. R&amp;D investigative activities completed and published 2. Number of renewable energy pilot projects undertaken 3. Funding identified and in place</td>
<td>Vhembe DM; Intervention area 2 (Thulamela)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Sector</td>
<td>Developmental Action</td>
<td>Proposed Interventions/Projects</td>
<td>Project Type</td>
<td>Description/Activities</td>
<td>Timeframes</td>
<td>Lead Role</td>
<td>Stakeholders</td>
<td>KPI's</td>
<td>Locality/Intervention Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Establishment of a technology park</td>
<td>Development of a technology park to foster innovation and enable its commercial application in the Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major Enabler</td>
<td>1. Develop a feasibility study for Vhembe DM to establish the viability of a technology park 2. Consideration of the infrastructure required 3. Engage local community 4. Identify pilot areas 5. Market and promote the venture 6. Identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Department of Science and Technology/ Department of Trade and Industry/ Agri SETA/ Private Sector/ Department of economic development and tourism/ community</td>
<td>1. R&amp;D investigative activities completed and published 2. Number of R&amp;D pilot projects undertaken 3. Funding identified and in place</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</td>
<td>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</td>
<td>PROJECT TYPE</td>
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</table>
| Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation | Manufacturing and industry | Investment in infrastructure: Establishment of district industrial hubs | Development of industrial hubs to foster small and medium-scale development in the Vhembe DM | High priority programme | 1. Develop a feasibility study for Vhembe DM to establish the viability of industrial hubs  
2. Consideration of the infrastructure required  
3. Engage local community  
4. Identify pilot areas  
5. Market and promote the venture  
6. Identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships | Medium to Long term | Vhembe DM | Department of Science and Technology/Department of Trade and Industry/Agri SETA/Private Sector/Department of economic development and tourism/community | 1. R&D investigative activities completed and published  
2. Number of pilot projects undertaken  
3. Funding identified and in place | Vhembe DM |
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<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
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<th>TIMEFRAMES</th>
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<th>STAKEHOLDERS</th>
<th>KPI's</th>
<th>LOCALITY/ INTERVENTION AREA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation</td>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Development of a renewable energy research park</td>
<td>Development of a 'laboratory' for renewable energy research and demonstration</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>1. Develop a feasibility study for Vhembe DM to establish the viability of a renewable energy park to increase the visibility of renewable energy technologies 2. Consideration of various forms of renewable energy including solar projects, hydro power and micro wind 3. Engage local community 4. Identify pilot areas 5. Market and promote the venture 6. Identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Department of minerals and energy</td>
<td>DRDLR/Eskom/ Independent Power Producers/ Regional and International Development Agencies/ Private Sector/ Universities/ community</td>
<td>1. R&amp;D investigative activities completed and published 2. Number of renewable energy pilot projects undertaken 3. Funding identified and in place</td>
<td>Vhembe DM; Intervention area 2 (Thulamela)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</td>
<td>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural Revitalisation</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Establishment of a technology park</td>
<td>Development of a technology park to foster innovation and enable its commercial application in the Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major Enabler</td>
<td>1. Develop a feasibility study for Vhembe DM to establish the viability of a technology park 2. Consideration of the infrastructure required 3. Engage local community 4. identify pilot areas 5. Market and promote the venture 6. identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Department of Science and Technology/ Department of Trade and Industry/ Agri SETA/ Private Sector/ Department of economic development and tourism/ community</td>
<td>1. R&amp;D investigative activities completed and published 2. Number of R&amp;D pilot projects undertaken 3. Funding identified and in place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting development in the rural economy and Investment in rural</td>
<td>Manufacturing and industry</td>
<td>Investment in infrastructure: Establishment of district industrial hubs</td>
<td>Development of industrial hubs</td>
<td>High priority programme</td>
<td>1. Develop a feasibility study for Vhembe DM to establish the viability of industrial hubs</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Department of Science and Technology/ Department of Trade and Industry/ Agri SETA/ Private Sector/ Department of economic development and tourism/ community</td>
<td>1. R&amp;D investigative activities completed and published 2. Number of pilot projects undertaken 3. Funding identified and in place</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
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<td>Revitalisation</td>
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<td>2. Consideration of the infrastructure required</td>
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<td>Department of economic development and tourism/ community</td>
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<td>3. Engage local community</td>
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<td>4. identify pilot areas</td>
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<td>5. Market and promote the venture</td>
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<td>6. identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships</td>
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<td>Promoting Sustainable Human Settlements</td>
<td>Sustainable Human Settlements</td>
<td>Reduction of Service delivery backlogs</td>
<td>Address the need for housing in the area of Matiyani village</td>
<td>High Priority programme</td>
<td>1. Conduct feasibility studies for the development of housing projects in Matiyani village 2. Expansion and maintenance of roads, water, and electricity supply in the village and surrounds 3. Put refuse removal and waste management processes in place</td>
<td>Medium to long term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Department of Human Settlements/ Department of Public Works/ Department of Water &amp; Sanitation/ Department of Environmental Affairs/ Private Sector/ communities</td>
<td>1. Number of new housing units provided 2. New social infrastructure developed/built 3. Suitable land identified for housing projects 4. Number of sanitation facilities built</td>
<td>Intervention area 3 (Matiyani Village)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**TIME FRAMES:** SHORT TERM 1- 3 YEARS; MEDIUM TERM 3-5 YEARS; LONG TERM > 5 YEARS
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</table>
| Conserving the natural environment          | Environment  | Preservation of the natural environment in the VDM        | Ensure that the environment including biodiversity is considered in DM decisions and projects    | Key Enabler    | 1. Identify and document protected areas, conservation areas, environmentally sensitive areas, etc. in the VDM  
2. Ensure areas with protected status are properly registered as such  
3. Ensure all government departments are aware of the environmental analysis and outlook.  
4. Ensure the department of environmental affairs is represented in relevant forums and committees | short to medium term | Vhembe DM                                                 | Department of the environment/All government departments/big business/traditional leaders/community forums | 1. All environmentally sensitive areas, conservation areas, etc. documented and database created  
2. Registrations of all protected areas completed  
3. Environmental analysis developed and circulated to all administrative offices  
4. Dept. of environmental affairs properly represented on Vhembe DM committees and decision making bodies | Vhembe DM - Functional region 2 (Makhado) |
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<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conserving the natural environment</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Preservation of the natural environment in the VDM</td>
<td>Address the environmental problems caused by inappropriate agricultural methods</td>
<td>Key Enabler</td>
<td>1. Identify areas with environmental issues such as overgrazing and desertification 2. Conduct impact assessments to ascertain the environmental impact of these issues 3. Identify causes of environmental issues 4. Educate the community on appropriate agricultural methods and the impact on the environment</td>
<td>short to medium term</td>
<td>Department of the environment/DAFF/private sector/traditional leaders/community forums/SETA's</td>
<td>1. All areas with potential threats to the environment identified 2. Number of environmental impact assessments completed 3. Community education programmes in place</td>
<td>Vhembe DM - Intervention area 2 (Thulamela) Functional region 1 (Musina)</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conserving the natural environment</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Preservation of the natural environment in the VDM</td>
<td>Ensure that the environment including biodiversity is considered in DM decisions and projects</td>
<td>Key Enabler</td>
<td>1. Identify and document protected areas, conservation areas, environmentally sensitive areas, etc in the VDM 2. Ensure areas with protected status are properly registered as such 3. Ensure all government departments are aware of the environmental analysis and outlook. 4. Ensure the department of environmental affairs is represented in relevant forums and committees</td>
<td>short to medium term</td>
<td>Vhembe DM</td>
<td>Department of the environment/ All government departments/ big business/ traditional leaders/ community forums</td>
<td>1. All environmentally sensitive areas, conservation areas, etc. documented and database created 2. Registrations of all protected areas completed 3. Environmental analysis developed and circulated to all administrative offices 4. Dept. of environmental affairs properly represented on Vhembe DM committees and decision making bodies</td>
<td>Vhembe DM - Functional region 2 (Makhado)</td>
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</table>
| Conserving the natural environment   | Environment  | Preservation of the natural environment in the VDM | Address the environmental problems caused by inappropriate agricultural methods | Key Enabler  | 1. Identify areas with environmental issues such as overgrazing and desertification  
2. Conduct impact assessments to ascertain the environmental impact of these issues  
3. Identify causes of environmental issues  
4. Educate the community on appropriate agricultural methods and the impact on the environment | short to medium term | Department of the environment/DAFF/private sector/traditional leaders/community forums/SETA's | 1. All areas with potential threats to the environment identified  
2. Number of environmental impact assessments completed  
3. Community education programmes in place | Vhembe DM - Intervention area 2  
(Thulamela)  
Functional region 1  
(Musina) |

**TIME FRAMES: SHORT TERM 1-3 YEARS; MEDIUM TERM 3-5 YEARS; LONG TERM > 5 YEARS**
8.2 Institutional Arrangements Framework

The implementation of the Vhembe 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 Vhembe 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 Vhembe 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 in this document is the persistence of hallmarks of underdevelopment in Limpopo’s rural areas. These markers of underdevelopment include the 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 VDM, 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 has 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 a 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, the vision for rural development in Vhembe as well as the issues identified as levers and barriers to rural economic transformation will inform the strategic thrust of DRDP. Moreover, these development issues will inform the implementation plan of DRDP’s, outlining specific programmes and projects that will act as catalysts for integrated rural development.