



UMZIMVUBU
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Policy Name	Integrated Environmental Management Policy
Status	Adopted
Date Developed	16 February 2010
Date Approved	
Last Amended	

Umzimvubu Municipality
813 Main Street
Mount Frere
5090

1. PREAMBLE

The Integrated Environmental Management Policy guides the Umzimvubu Local Municipality's integrated approach to environmental governance and sustainability.

South African municipalities have a constitutional and statutory mandate to safeguard and protect the environment of local communities and to actively engage in public environmental governance. The core provisions in this respect include, among others, sections 152 and 153 of the Constitution which state that the objectives of local government include to ensure provision of services in a sustainable manner and to promote a safe and healthy environment. Moreover, municipalities must structure and manage administration, budgeting and planning to priorities basic needs of communities and must further simultaneously promote social and economic development. The duties of municipalities, in particular local councils, in terms of section 4 of the Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000) include to –

- a) exercise the municipality's authority and to use its resources (including its natural resources) in the best interest of the local community;
- b) ensure that services are provided in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner;
- c) promote a safe and healthy environment, and
- d) to contribute to the progressive realization of, among other fundamental rights, the environmental right contained in section 24 of the Constitution.

Section 24 of the Constitution states that:

Everyone has the right –

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

This section, read with section 7(2) of the Constitution, makes it clear that local government should take positive action towards fulfilling peoples' environmental right

across South Africa; both in the rural and urban areas. This right is further reinforced by constitutional entitlements such as the rights of people to access to sufficient water and housing in terms of sections 26 and 27 of the Constitution. Cumulatively, the above constitutional provisions place a responsibility on local government to initiate and facilitate sustainable environmental governance.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 This policy is developed to:

- 2.1.1 Promote the integrated of the social, economic, institutional and physical aspects of land development; - unified and integrated approach to planning.
- 2.1.2 Promote integrated land development in rural and urban areas in support of each other
- 2.1.3 Promote the availability of residential and employment opportunities in close proximity to or integrated to each other.
- 2.1.4 Optimize the use of existing resources including such resources relating to agriculture. Land, mineral, bulk infrastructure, roads, transportation and social facilities.
- 2.1.5 Promote a diverse combination of land uses, also at the level of individual erven or subdivisions of land.
- 2.1.6 Discourage the phenomenon of “urban sprawl” in urban areas and contribute to the development of more compact towns and cities.
- 2.1.7 Contribute to the correction of the historically distorted spatial patterns of settlement in the Republic and to the optimum use of existing infrastructure in excess of current needs and
- 2.1.8 Encourage environmentally sustainable land development practices and processes
- 2.1.9 Provide guidelines for conservation and protection arable and grazing lands.
- 2.1.10 Provide guidelines and identification of important grasslands and shrubs
- 2.1.11 To ensure that critical biodiversity areas are managed and protected for sustenance.
- 2.1.12 Bring balance between utilization and conservation of natural resources.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

To ensure that Umzimvubu Local Municipality practices co-operative governance with its neighboring municipalities in all development planning processes and actively participates in environmental activities and programme of other organs of state. To achieve this -

- a) The environmental governance activities undertaken by the Municipality shall be aligned with, and complement the environmental governance activities of other neighboring municipalities and other interested and affected organs of state, so as to give effect to the environmental principles in Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act and the principles for co-operative governance and inter-governmental relations in chapter 3 of the Constitution and the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act;
- b) The Municipality must, within its available human and financial resources, participate in national environmental governance targets, activities and programmes and similar efforts in the District Municipality as well as in the Eastern Cape Province;
- c) The Municipality shall structure in accordance with the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act its internal organization in a manner that will ensure optimization of its local environmental governance and to allow for integrated and coordinated execution and implementation of the Municipality's environmental duties and functions; and
- d) The Municipality shall promote and encourage cooperative environmental governance within the Municipality and among councilors and members of the staff of the Municipality responsible for matters related to the environment and environmental health.

4. SCOPE DEFINITION

4.1 This policy will apply to all who:

4.1.1 Leave in grassland areas and reliant to it for survival.

4.1.2 Who wish to start businesses which may need special accreditation before starting.

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1 Unless inconsistent with the policy:

5.1.1 **ULM** means Umzimvubu Local Municipality

5.1.2 **DEDEA** means Department of Economic development and environmental affairs.

5.1.3 **DAFF** means Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.

5.1.4 **LED** means Local Economic Development.

5.1.5 **NFA** means the National Forest Act 82 of 1998

5.1.6 **NEMA** means the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 1998

5.1.7 **NWA** means the National Water Act 36 of 1983

5.1.7 **EIA** means the Environmental Impact Assessment

5.1.8 **SEA** means the Strategic Impact Assessment

5.1.9 **DLA** means the Department of Land Affairs

5.1.10 **NVFA** means the National Veld and Forest Fire Act.

6. **IMPLEMENTATION**

6.1 Business which needs special accreditation.

6.1.1 In implementing business that need special accreditation by relevant departments or authorities with the assistance of Umzimvubu LM.

- (a) Communities should be informed of the planned project and their views taken into consideration.
- (b) Land Ownership should be verified and any uncertainty unveiled (DALA)
- (c) EIA should be conducted by an approved environmentalist, to ensure maximal protection of the environment and reasonable time be given in the process.

6.2 Utilization and reliance of grassland.

6.2.1 Utilization and reliance on grass land should be monitored seriously as they can result in:

- (a) Overgrazing which lead to soil erosion
- (b) Veld fires which can lead to both soil erosion and also atmospheric pollution.

Therefore

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- Communities should be made aware of the dangers of veld fires and
 - Be trained on fire prevention and
 - Firefighting measures
 - Be encouraged to rotate grazing so as to avoid overgrazing.

Others

There are other projects which may be encouraged so as to ensure that our environment is cared for, like the following programmes:

- Conservation farming
- Recycling of waste
- Composting so as to encourage bio agriculture

6.2.2 Other forest resources like honey and medicinal plants are usually on a small scale therefore the person who need them can approach any DAFF Office for a license.

6.3 Entering a natural, state forest or privately owned plantation.

6.3.1 In natural forests and state forests entrance, prio arrangements should be made with relevant authorities and the duration of stay shall be stated on the license.

Also this applies in the privately owned plantations.

7. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 7.1 Development of ULM forest sector plan.
- 7.2 Engage DAFF on the transfer of government's Category B and C plantations to the communities
- 7.3 Encourage community woodlots rehabilitation.
- 7.4 Engage internal and external experts when required.
- 7.5 Ensure sound relations with sector departments.
- 7.6 Encourage skills development and awareness.
- 7.8 Conduct awareness programmes on how to protect the environment.

8. LEGISLATIVE FRAME WORK

8.1 The planning-related legislative context for the Umzimvubu Local Municipality was provided by, in particular, the:

- South African Constitution Act 108 of 19961
- Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013 (SPLUMA)
- National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) 8.

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9. COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLICY

Unless otherwise stated this Policy shall commence on the date of adoption of by Council.

10. PERMANENT / TEMPORARY WAIVER OF THIS POLICY

10.1 This policy may be wholly waived by the Municipal Council on temporary or permanent basis.

10.2 Notwithstanding clause 7.1 the Accounting Officer may under the circumstances of emergency temporarily waive this policy subject to reporting of such waiver to Council

11. SUSPENSION OF THIS POLICY

11.1 This policy may be repealed by the Council

11.2 This policy may be suspended by the Council

