

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Mogale City Local Municipality (MCLM) protects, conserves and improves all elements of the environment in its jurisdiction including water and other natural resources, through robust, integrated systems and judicious decision-making that advances sustainable development for all its citizens.*

*MCLM IDP, 2002 – Mogale City's Vision*

## BACKGROUND

This City State of the Environment Report was commissioned by the Mogale City Local Municipality (MCLM) and compiled by Strategic Environmental Focus (SEF). The Mogale Integrated Development Plan (IDP), 2002, formed an important basis for the formulation of this document. One of the key strategic priorities identified through the IDP process was that of environmental stability. This report is just one tool that will assist in meeting the challenges faced by the Mogale City Local Municipality.



The main objectives of a State of the Environment Report are to:

- Increase awareness and understanding of environmental trends and conditions and their causes and consequences among all stakeholders;
- Provide a foundation for improved decision making at all levels, from the individual to national governments, as well as international organisations; and
- Facilitate the measurement of progress towards sustainability.

Making the information available on the Internet allows the information to be more easily accessible and also allows city comparison at a global level. A SoER can also form the basis of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The reporting system which was used, reports on each theme in terms of cause, what the current status is and what is being or should be carried out to alleviate environmental problems impacting on human health and quality of life. This approach is called Pressure – State – Response.

Some of the most important themes that emerged from this SoER are the following:

### **The Natural Environment**

- Air quality
- Water quality and quantity
- Habitat and Biodiversity
- Geomorphology

## The Built Environment

- Agriculture, Housing, Industrial, Mining
- Open Space
- Cultural Heritage
- Infrastructure

## Socio Economic Environment

- Local Economy
- Health
- Education
- Safety and Security
- Governance
- Tourism

In compiling this SoER, the MCLM joins five other cities in South Africa who have also compiled their SoER and have therefore responded to Agenda 21, which calls for improved environmental information for decision making.

The closing paragraph of the *"Local Government Declaration"*, delivered during the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development, states the following: *"We live in an increasingly interconnected world. The local and the global are intertwined. Local Government cannot afford to be insular and inward-looking. Fighting poverty, exclusion and environmental decay is a moral issue, but also one of self-interest. Ten years after Rio, it is time for action by all spheres of government, all partners. And local action, undertaken in solidarity, can move the world"*. Join Mogale City Local Municipality on our path to sustainable development.



Ms Itumeleng Mokate

**MUNICIPAL MANAGER: MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

