

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<b>Alternative energy sources</b>	Also called “renewable sources” of energy, because these sources, such as the sun and the wind, can never be exhausted. Unlike energy generated from fossil fuels, such as coal and crude oil (which can be exhausted), they do not lead to high concentrations of harmful gases in the atmosphere.
<b>Basic water supply</b>	The prescribed minimum standard of water supply services necessary for a reliable supply of sufficient quantity and quality of water to households, including informal households, to support life and personal hygiene.
<b>Basic sanitation</b>	The prescribed minimum standard of services necessary for the safe, hygienic and adequate collection, removal, disposal and purification of human excreta, domestic waste water and sewage from households, including informal households.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The variability among living organisms from all sources including, <i>inter alia</i> , terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
<b>Catchment management</b>	Controlling and protecting catchments – areas of land that collect rain water, which then channel the water to lakes, dams or the sea.
<b>Coliform bacteria</b>	Bacteria that are usually found in animal faeces and sewage and are indicators of the quality of water. They are not pathogenic (disease-causing) but are indicators of the possible presence of pathogens.
<b>Crime rate</b>	The number of crimes committed for every 100 000 people in a year.
<b>Effluent</b>	That water which flows out of a man made system into a river; usually waste water from sewerage and industrial plants.
<b>Environment</b>	Our surroundings, including living and non-living elements, for example land, soil, plants, animals, air, water and humans. The environment also refers to our social and economic surroundings and our effect on our surroundings.
<b>Environmental management</b>	Making sure that environmental concerns are included at all stages of development, ensuring sustainable development.

<b>Environmental policy</b>	Guidelines and rules for managing and protecting the environment.
<b>Hazardous waste</b>	Waste that is a threat to the well being of people, plants and animals, for example hazardous waste from factories, detergents, pesticides and vehicles.
<b>Fauna</b>	Animals
<b>Flora</b>	Plants
<b>Food security</b>	The assured availability and access (physical and economic) to adequate food (in terms of quality and quantity) by all people at all times for a healthy, active and productive life.
<b>Ground water</b>	Water that is located below the ground surface.
<b>Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</b>	Total value of final production of goods and services within a specific timeframe, usually a calendar year.
<b>Landfill site</b>	Areas used for the disposal of waste.
<b>Natural environment</b>	Our physical surroundings, including plants and animals, when they are unspoilt by human activities. Themes that form part of the natural environment are air, water, soil and biodiversity.
<b>Natural heritage</b>	Natural features consisting of physical and biological formations, which are of outstanding universal value from an aesthetic or scientific point of view.
<b>Policy</b>	A government document, which sets out guidelines for decision-making and action. In a democratic environment, it is the product of government and specialist involvement in a consultative process with communities and helps to set priorities and allocate resources.
<b>Pollution</b>	Harming the natural environment as a result of human activities, specifically through household and chemical waste, e.g. effluent, noise, dust and smells.
<b>Poverty</b>	A certain level of material deprivation, below which an individual suffers physically, emotionally and socially.
<b>Riparian</b>	Areas adjacent to water or influenced by free water associated with streams or rivers on geological surfaces occupying the lowest position on a watershed.

<b>Red Data species</b>	Plant or animal species whose natural, wild populations have been reduced, usually by the activities of humans, such that their survival may be threatened. Their continued survival may be dependent on special protection. Depending on various factors they have been classified according to the IUCN standards as Endangered, Rare, Threatened or Indeterminant.
<b>Recycling</b>	Collect, cleaning and re-using waste materials.
<b>SEED</b>	Sustainable Energy Environment and Development Programme, a research and training programme aiming at the development of skills and awareness in the field of clean energy supply.
<b>Sustainable development</b>	Providing for the needs of the present without impairing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
<b>Socio economic environment</b>	The part of the environment that is linked to human activities for example; social, economic, cultural and political activities. Themes that form part of the socio-economic environment are the economy, health, education, safety and security as well as environmental governance.
<b>Species diversity</b>	The range of species in an area or habitat.
<b>Species richness</b>	The number of species in an area or habitat.
<b>Veld</b>	South African term for natural vegetation, usually grassland, typically containing scattered shrubs or trees.
<b>World Heritage Site</b>	Architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science. The protection of world heritage sites is the duty of the international community as a whole.