



# Social & Cultural




The cultural heritage of Limpopo spans the divide between ancient and modern times. This rich heritage is reflected in the numerous historical, archaeological, cultural and natural heritage sites in Limpopo. Superb examples of Iron Age history, pre- and post-colonial history, as well as current cultural heritage occur throughout the province. Some of the most significant and most well-known heritage sites of the province include:


- the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site
- Thulamela Iron Age Site, in the northern Kruger National Park
- the Makapans Caves near Mokopane
- the Garden of Modjadji the Rain Queen which contains the Modjadji Cycad *Encephalartos transvenosus*, the largest single concentration of single species of cycads in the world
- the sacred Lake Fundudzi
- the Giant baobab tree, largest specimen in the world
- the San paintings of the Waterberg and Soutpansberg.




Limpopo has a culturally mixed population of about 5, 27 million people, which is 12% of the South African population. Of the population 52, 6% is younger than 20 years of age. The province is predominantly rural.



Of people between the ages of 5 and 24 years old, 74% attend school, 22% do not attend any form of educational institution, and only 1% attend tertiary education institutions.



Limpopo is served by more than 50 hospitals or major medical centres, which are well distributed across the province. A network of clinics further supports these facilities. On average there is approximately one medical doctor per 11 000 people in Limpopo.



The focus of primary health care in the province is on a preventative rather than a curative approach. The major health problems in Limpopo are tuberculosis, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), sexually transmitted disease (STD), upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea, bilharzia and malaria. Other health problems include chronic diseases, teenage pregnancy, unwanted pregnancies, and malnutrition, injuries due to accidents, substance abuse, skin conditions, genetic conditions and disability.

## Pressures

Heritage pressures include:

- new development activities, such as mining, dams, agriculture and large-scale land use changes
- neglect
- vandalism
- undocumented heritage including oral history.

The following health pressures impact on Limpopo:

- tropical and infectious diseases such as malaria and bilharzia
- HIV/AIDS and social diseases
- quality of access to basic health services

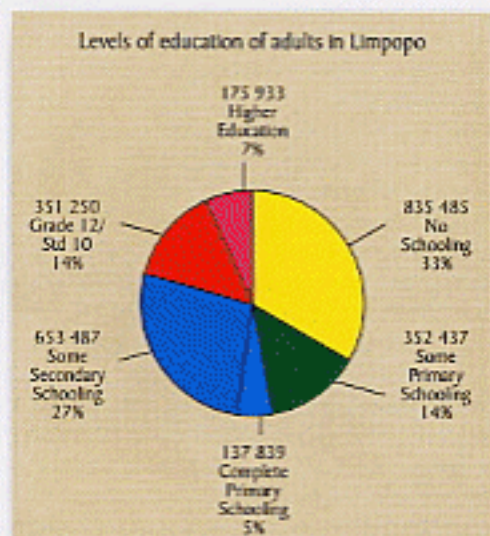
# Environment

Educational pressures include:

- the low level of education in the province limits the potential for growth, development and the sustainable use of resources
- lack of environmental and tourism education at schools.

Population growth pressures include:

- the young population of the province
- influx to urban centres
- influx from neighbouring states.



## Key issues

The key issues in respect of cultural-historical aspects include:

- cataloguing all heritage sites in the province
- priority conservation for threatened significant sites
- development at Mapungubwe World Heritage Site
- World Heritage Status for Makapans Caves
- lack of funding for the identification, protection and maintenance of cultural and historical sites
- formalisation of national monument status for buildings of historical value in Limpopo.

The key priorities in terms of welfare include:

- inadequate poverty relief
- inadequate childcare
- inadequate care for HIV/AIDS victims
- inadequate welfare services
- the upgrading and refurbishing of health care facilities
- developing a sustainable primary health care system.

Key issues in respect to social aspects include:

- the young population requires increased investment in skills training
- sustainable development requires a well-trained labour force
- high levels of unemployment in the youth of Limpopo increases the tendency towards crime, violence and instability
- educational backlogs remain a major obstacle to development.