



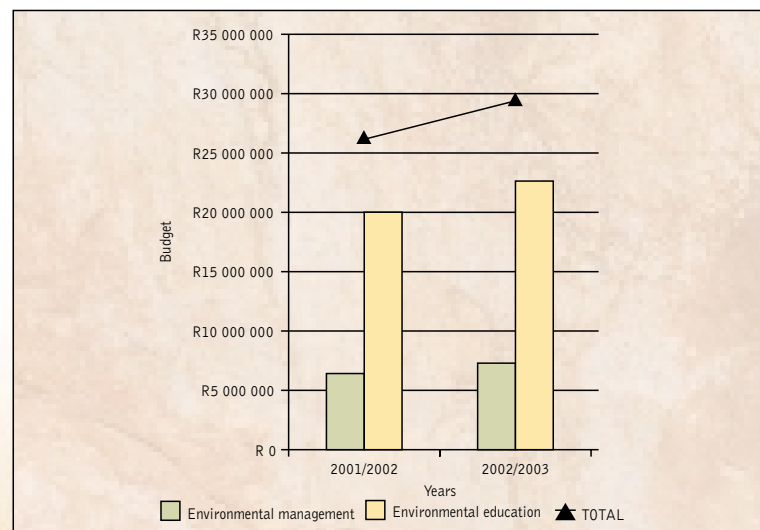
Environmental management is what we do to oversee or govern the environment. Our *environment* includes the biophysical environment, and our economy, society and political system. Our Constitution gives the people of South Africa the right to live in an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being. The best way Mpumalanga can achieve this is through governance. Governance is the way in which we manage our environment. Governance requires many sectors of society to participate, including government departments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations. Good environmental management and governance are key factors in ensuring sustainable development in Mpumalanga.

The indicators selected to monitor environmental management and governance in Mpumalanga include:

- Budgetary allocation to environmental management, education and awareness;
- Government capacity for environmental management and education;
- Voluntary adoption of environmental management systems;
- Integrated Development Plan (IDP) commitment to the environment; and
- Monitoring of implementation and compliance.

Budgetary allocation to environmental management, education and awareness

This indicator tells us about the financial commitment of provincial government to environmental management, education and awareness raising. The provision of adequate financial resources to these issues shows political commitment to them. Expenditure on environmental education and awareness, in particular, may lead to increased involvement and empowerment of people in environmental issues. The amount of money provided each year by Mpumalanga DACE to environmental management and education is increasing. More money is provided to environmental education than environmental management, underlining the belief that “prevention is better than cure”.



Budgeted allocation to environmental management and education in Mpumalanga (Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment)

Government capacity for environmental management and education

The ability to influence biophysical changes is often constrained by capacity and resource factors in the political, economic and social spheres. A lack of capacity in government departments dealing with the process of environmental management can severely impede their ability to carry out their mandate. Capacity is defined as the availability of adequately trained personnel who are able to fulfil their designated functions. Capacity in Mpumalanga DACE for environmental management has declined over the past 2 years while capacity in environmental education has increased.

Voluntary adoption of environmental management systems

This indicator shows private sector commitment to environmental management. It reflects corporate institutional support for environmental management, and highlights corporate accountability and transparency. Environmental management systems (EMS) promote practices that protect the environment (or at least give it greater protection than it currently has) and strive for continuous improvement. Major industries operating in Mpumalanga were contacted and asked what EMS they use. The survey showed that most of the larger industries use some kind of EMS, with ISO 14001 being the most common. It is not known what kind of EMS both medium and small enterprises use. Regardless of whether or not an industry has an EMS in place, all are still required to adhere to national and provincial legislation and local by-laws.

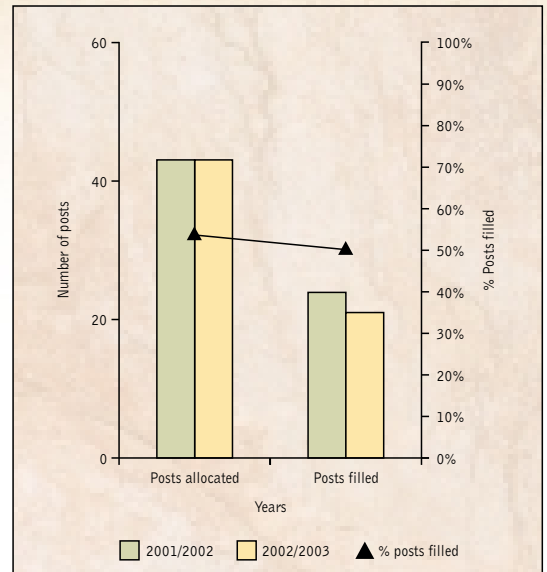
Integrated Development Plan (IDP) commitment to the environment

Each municipality is required to prepare an Integrated Development Plan every 5 years. This plan will help them achieve their development objectives by aligning scarce resources with priorities. This indicator looks at whether the IDPs show any commitment to managing the environment.

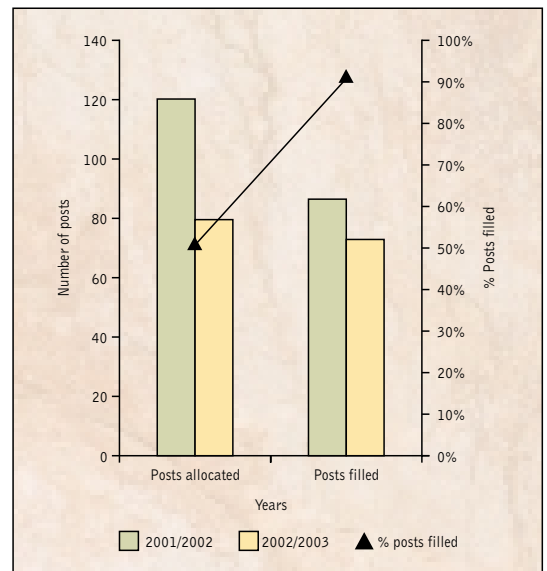
Of the 33 municipalities in the province (including those that share borders with other provinces), only 14 complete IDPs were obtained. These documents were assessed against a set of questions to determine their environmental commitment. The results reflected that few of the IDPs showed an understanding of or commitment to the environment. Only 3 documents showed a municipal structure and mechanisms for the responsibility and accountability of environmental issues. Only 1 IDP showed any understanding of how the EIA legislation would be complied with during implementation of their listed projects.

Monitoring of implementation and compliance

This indicator reports on the degree to which environmental legislation, both national and provincial or local, is being upheld and adhered to. There is presently no data available for this indicator as no monitoring of implementation and compliance takes place in Mpumalanga.



Government capacity for environmental management in Mpumalanga (Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Environment)



Government capacity for environmental education in Mpumalanga (Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Environment)

