



CONCEPT NOTE: NATIONAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (NSDF) Input for the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Forum 4-5 October 2018

Introduction and background

The National Development Plan calls for the development of a National Spatial Vision and Framework to transform South Africa's spaces and reach the objective of the Reconstruction and Development Programme of breaking down the spatial geography of Apartheid.

The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, Act 16 of 2013 (SPLUMA) provides for the development of the National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF), alongside Spatial Development Frameworks at Provincial and Municipal Level. DPME is working closely with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on the development of the NSDF. A Draft NSDF is available for consultation.

NSDF Mandate

Sections 12, 13 and 14 of SPLUMA provides guidance to the NSDF and specifically indicates that the NSDF must consider:

- All policies, plans and programmes of public and private bodies that impact on spatial planning, land development and land use management;
- Any matter relevant to the coordination of such policies, plans and programmes that impact on spatial planning, land development and land use management; and
- All representations submitted to the Minister in respect of the framework.

The NSDF must further:

- Give effect to the development principles and norms and standards set out in the Act,
- Give effect to all relevant national policies, priorities, plans and legislation;
- Coordinate and integrate provincial and municipal SDFs;
- Enhance spatial coordination and land use management activities at national level;
- Indicate desired patterns of land use in the country; and
- Take cognisance of any environmental management instrument adopted by the relevant environmental management authority.

International Precedent and Experience

Internationally, National Spatial Planning with a twenty to thirty-year time horizon has primarily been a feature of:

- Developmental States in Asia, notably China, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea;
- African Countries at two different stages, i.e. shortly after independence, and in more recent times of strongly-emerging and rapidly growing countries such as Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Namibia, Botswana and Tanzania;
- Smaller European Countries, notably the Netherlands and Denmark, but more recently Ireland, Albania, Iceland, Estonia, Wales, Scotland, Portugal and Romania;

Long term spatial plans are generally successful due to:

- Strong support for the entity preparing it from the outset of the preparation process for the instrument both within and outside of government;
- Political will, coupled with decisive and capable state action;
- A strong and vocal technical lobby of planners, researchers and academics supporting it; and / or
- A clear, tangible need for it and a prevailing sense amongst the population at large that it could make a meaningful difference in the fortunes of the country and their lives.

Process to date



Institutionalisation of the NSDF within the overall planning system

Spatial Planning is a mechanism for integration and coordination. In order to ensure implementation of the NSDF, it requires much stronger linkage with the overall planning and budgeting system, in particular at Provincial and National levels (the Municipal Systems Act already links the spatial framework of a Municipality to its integrated development plan). It is therefore critical that the priorities highlighted in the NSDF enjoys the support of government stakeholders, and that it is also embedded within the plans and priorities for the next cycle of government.

Given the requirement for stronger alignment between the spatial framework and plans of government, linkage between the five-year implementation plan of the National Development Plan and the NSDF is key. Background analysis towards the development of the NSDF also pointed to various areas where deeper engagement and discussion is required with key stakeholders, with possible implications for plans and planning approaches. As such, the work could also contribute toward the five-year implementation plan of the NDP.

Aim of NSDF presentation and discussion at the PME forum

The draft NSDF will be released for public consultation soon. The success of the NSDF relies on how it has been embedded in the overall planning system and the level of buy-in and support from a range of stakeholders, including technical stakeholders within and outside of government, as well as the private sector and civil society. The draft NSDF will be presented to the PME forum to give stakeholders an opportunity to highlight particular considerations from their side that should inform the National Spatial Development Agenda of the country. The PME forum will also allow for critical consultation with a broader range of stakeholders and increase awareness of the draft framework in the lead up to the formal public consultation process and encourage stakeholders to submit formal input and representation on the draft framework.