



NC PSDF TOOLKIT 6 | BIOREGIONAL PLANNING CONTENTS FOR SDFs



Province of the
Northern Cape
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE BIOREGIONAL PLANNING TOOLKIT

The Bioregional Planning Toolkit provides a framework for preparing Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) within the Northern Cape, in alignment with the principles of bioregional planning. The toolkit is designed to ensure that land-use planning and management are conducted in a coordinated, sustainable manner, considering environmental, social, and economic factors. It guides district and local municipalities in developing SDFs that align with national and provincial legislation and policies, ensuring that development is sustainable, equitable, and inclusive.

TOOLKIT INTENT

This Toolkit is to be Used to:

- Ensure that planning efforts foster long-term sustainability across the planning area.
- Inform future municipal demarcations to ensure that boundaries reflect bioregional characteristics.
- Utilise a consistent format for classifying land use, based on defined Spatial Planning Categories (SPCs) and environmental values.
- Promote spatial patterns that support integrated, efficient, and sustainable communities.
- Ensure that district and local municipalities manage land and development in a manner that respects bioregional boundaries and characteristics.
- Integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into spatial planning and land-use regulations.
- Involve communities in the planning process, particularly at the neighbourhood level, to ensure that local needs and values are reflected in development strategies.

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The TOOLKIT should be read in conjunction with the Land Use Management Section of the PSDF. This comprehensive approach ensures that the planning and development initiatives align with the overarching goals of the PSDF, fostering coordinated and sustainable development throughout the Northern Cape Province.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Effective land-use planning and management hinge on the cooperation and coordination among all government levels. The PSDF emphasises integrated development planning, a participatory process that integrates sectoral strategies to optimally allocate scarce resources across sectors, geographic areas, and populations, promoting sustainable growth, equity, and empowerment of the poor and marginalised (Forum for Effective Planning and Development, 1995). A key objective of the PSDF is to assist district and local municipalities in preparing their SDFs according to the Local Government Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000.

This toolkit outlines the essential elements for the SDFs of district and local municipalities as per the bioregional planning approach endorsed by the PSDF. It should be read and integrated with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, the Northern Cape Planning Spatial Planning and Land-Use Management Bill, SPLUMA, the NSDF, and the Guidelines for Preparation of Spatial Development Frameworks.

1.1 THE BIOREGIONAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (SDF)

1.1.1 ABRIDGED FUNCTIONS OF A BIOREGIONAL SDF

SECTION A Introduction and approach

- Purpose of SDF and user guidelines regarding the interpretation of the document

SECTION B Synopsis of key characteristics

- Assessment of current spatial and developmental challenges and opportunities that requires interventions

SECTION C Spatial Vision and Directives

- Spatial objectives and associated directives to support the realisation of the spatial vision

SECTION D Toolkits to support implementation

- Public and stakeholder guidelines to land use changes; guidelines for the development of precinct plans etc.

In addition to the functions outlined in the above statutes and guidelines, SDFs for district and local municipalities in the Northern Cape should:

- a) Promote sustainable development throughout the planning area.
- b) Inform future municipal demarcation to align municipal boundaries with bioregional parameters.
- c) Classify land use within any planning area using a standard format according to defined Spatial Planning Categories (SPCs), based on various environmental parameters and a system of values and ethics.
- d) Facilitate spatial patterns that promote integrated, efficient, and sustainable settlements throughout the planning area.

District municipalities are responsible for detailed bioregion delimitation (refer to Toolkit 8), preparing a district-wide land-use classification plan in accordance with primary SPCs (refer to Toolkit 4), and formulating strategies for sustainable development and land management in the district. They must also manage relationships between local municipalities to ensure integrated bioregional management, especially where municipal boundaries do not align with bioregional parameters.

Local municipalities should delimit neighbourhood areas as fine-grained planning units ensuring community participation, conduct detailed land use classification according to SPCs and Sub-Categories (refer to Toolkit 4), develop and implement sustainable development strategies and projects, and establish sustainable public-private partnerships using models like the SDFs (refer to Toolkit 13).

1.1.2 ABRIDGED CONTENT OF A BIOREGIONAL SDF

SDFs for district and local municipalities in the Northern Cape should address:

- The availability and extent of vacant land to meet the various needs of the settlement and its inhabitants.
- Environmental constraints impacting the future use of vacant land.

- The inclusion of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation approaches into spatial planning and land use regulations.
- Opportunities for development or other appropriate land uses on vacant land that address the settlement's needs.
- Appropriate land-use classification to ensure sustainability and alignment with the area's vision, goals, and objectives.
- Spatial structuring elements to ensure future urban renewal, development projects, and associated land uses comply with 'good place-making' principles, including:
 - Outer limits for the town's expansion based on current growth rates and resource availability, by implementing a 5,10- and 15-year urban edge.
 - Activity corridors along primary transport routes for mixed-use development.
 - Activity streets offer opportunities for local businesses and community facilities.
 - Nodes at intersections of activity corridors and streets for concentrated use.
 - Precincts are dominated by community-based activities and land uses influencing settlement patterns.
 - A Municipal Open Space System (MOSS) forms a contiguous network.