



Socio-economic vitality through ecological integrity

Widely acknowledged for the expertise we provide in environmental planning, environmental assessments and policy formulation, we assist our clients in their sustainability decision-making and reporting processes aimed at recognising the interdependence of ecological integrity, economic vitality, and social equality.

The integrated nature of development that is truly sustainable demands a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary approach. In addition to interpreting what sustainability means in a given context, it entails systematic and continuous information generation, policy development, reporting and implementation monitoring. With this in mind, Royal HaskoningDHV's services offer the best professional solutions in strategic environmental planning, environmental reporting, and environmental training.

Strategic environmental planning

Strategic planning has become a key service component in the environmental field. Many countries now mandate that both public and private sectors assess and plan for the potential environmental impacts of projects prior to implementation. By pro-actively compiling or applying strategic environmental planning tools - which are undertaken on a strategic level as opposed to authorisation processes that deal with individual projects - we further the goals of sustainability and integrated planning.

Royal HaskoningDHV takes a strong ecosystem services-based approach to development. We address issues such as the shift to a green economy, recognition of climate change related vulnerabilities, support for water and waste re-use and recycling, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable storm water management, promoting a renewable energy mix and enhancing a participatory and knowledge-driven process. We have developed considerable expertise in strategic environmental planning processes, particularly **strategic environmental assessments (SEAs)** and **environmental management frameworks (EMFs)**.

In pursuit of sustainability

To ensure that environmental planning guides and directs developments, SEAs should form part of all policies, plans and programmes. SEAs are frequently applied to spatial planning processes, as well as in mining, transportation, infrastructure and tourism developments. It even extends to individual projects - guiding further design alternatives and implementation. Our projects have assisted clients as diverse as the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the City of Cape Town to incorporate principles of sustainability into their operational spheres.

The National Environmental Management Act of South Africa stipulates the process which must be followed in the preparation of EMFs. This strategic environmental planning tool spatially assesses environmental aspects and sensitivities and guides future development towards more sustainable outcomes. As part of this process, strategic environmental management plans are

compiled, serving as planning tools to guide detailed implementation and operations. We have compiled environmental frameworks for a range of clients and at a range of spatial scales, refining an in-house methodology aimed at optimising the national prescriptions.

Policies, strategies and guidelines

We are experienced in developing policies, strategies and guidelines that embrace a wide spectrum of environmental aspects, including biodiversity, water resources, energy, climate change, waste management, natural resources, open space resources, urban and rural development, and environmental management.

Open space planning

Our experience and pro-active planning assists our clients in ensuring sustainable protection, utilisation and integration of open spaces. We create quality open spaces which benefit both communities and the environment. These projects combine our expertise in urban planning and environmental management.



Green buildings and roads

End-users are demanding improved environmental quality and the reduction of pollution and waste. This has highlighted the need for improved building performance and the footprints they leave. Royal HaskoningDHV boasts Green Star accredited professionals who are accredited by the Green Building Council of South Africa, as well as Greenroads Sustainable Transportation professionals. We make use of innovative assessment tools geared towards improving site and building performance, while guiding future developments. By close collaboration with the specialised architectural and engineering services, we highlight enhanced opportunities presented by 'green' interventions in the built environment. With a view to enhance sustainability, our accomplished professionals advise on ways to achieve Green Star ratings by evaluating site selections and layout plans and assessing operations relating to landscaping, energy, water and waste management, ecological management and environmental management.

Environmental reporting

State of environment and outlook reports are increasingly being used by all spheres of government. Covering a wide range of themes, facts and information, these reports focus on environmental performance trends over a period of time. A key outcome is to assess the success in reducing environmental degradation, prevention of pollution, and promoting improved human well-being and quality of life. Outlook reports are designed to communicate credible, timely and accessible information about the condition of the environment to decision makers and society. However, going beyond a summary of conditions, the reports include indicators that illustrate environmental condition trends, pressures and management effectiveness, with a view towards future conditions and contexts.

Royal HaskoningDHV is well-equipped to assist clients in responding to the challenges of conducting business in a socially, environmentally and ethically responsible manner through the implementation and monitoring of sustainable triple bottom-line and sustainability reporting. Our specialists are certified to prepare integrated and sustainability reports – in line with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines and protocols. The GRI sustainability reporting process is about effecting continuous change and improvement in response to a recognition of organisations' environmental and social impacts.

Environmental training

A large portion of the population does not have access to information about activities that can impact on their environment or their health and safety. Our specialised environmental trainers work to improve awareness of environmental issues, and capacitate trainees to assert themselves in their specific social or professional context.

With a dedicated focus on general environmental awareness, environmental planning, integrated environmental management as well as specific environmental aspects, we develop custom-made training courses for the private and public sector.

We specialise in transforming technical and scientific material into accessible formats that are easily understood. This could include glossy state of environment reports and a range of awareness material including posters, banners, z-folds and newsletters.

We have a wealth of



Showcase projects



experience in assessing and reporting on the impacts of a variety of projects in Africa, such as South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Strategic environmental planning

- Environmental Management Frameworks for Dinokeng, Tlokwe, Metsweding, John Taolo Gaetsewe and iLembe
- Numerous strategic environmental assessments in southern Africa
- Environmental policies for the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Ekurhuleni Metro
- Development Effectiveness Report for the Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Guidelines for High-Pressure Development Areas for the City of Joburg
- Green Servitudes Tool for the South African National Biodiversity Institute
- Local Open Space Plans for Mamelodi East and Evaton/Sebokeng (Emfuleni)
- Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the City of Joburg
- Feasibility Study for the Magaliesburg (adjacent to Mamelodi) for the SANBI Grasslands Programme

- Amathole District Municipality Integrated Environmental Management Plan
- Existing Building Performance Rating Tool for the Green Building Council of South Africa
- Strategic Environmental Assessments of Integrated Transportation Plans

Environmental reporting

- South African Environmental Outlook report including specialist chapters, namely Oceans and Coasts, Air Quality, Inland Water and Energy
- Gauteng State of Environment Report
- Western Cape State of Environment Report
- North West Provincial Environmental Outlook
- City of Joburg State of Environment Report

Environmental training

- Capacity building for specific departments and entities for the City of Joburg
- Environmental Education and Awareness Manual for the City of Joburg
- Environmental education and awareness material for the Ekurhuleni Environmental Policy
- Publication of the Gauteng State of Environment Report

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