POCKET GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA
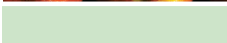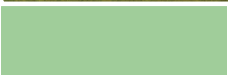
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM

The implementation of rural development is expected to result in vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all. The essence of such a community would be measured through the following:
- food security
- rapid and sustained economic growth
- intellectual development
- environmental sustainability
- healthy rural communities
- political maturity
- social stability and growth
- self-reliant and confident communities
- fairness in line with the Bill of Rights
- social cohesion.

With the introduction of government's outcomes-based approach, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has revised its 2010/13 Strategic Plan to take into account the need to create vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities, including food security. The outcome is linked to five outputs, which are all pertinent to the department's work and which have been integrated into its strategic goals. These are: sustainable agrarian reform with a thriving small and large farming sector; improved access to affordable and diverse food; improved rural services to support sustainable livelihoods; rural job creation linked to skills training and promoting economic livelihoods; and an enabling institutional environment for sustainable and improved growth.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's strategy to achieve sustainable rural development is "agrarian transformation". It will focus on establishing rural business initiatives, cooperatives, cultural initiatives, agro-industries and rural settings; empowering rural people and communities (especially women and the youth); and upgrading economic, social, information and communications infrastructure, public amenities and facilities in villages and small rural towns.

Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's purpose is to initiate, facilitate, coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the CRDP that leads to sustainable and vibrant rural communities. The key thrust of the CRDP

In 2011, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, working with partners from the public and private sectors, intervened in areas which had been hit by natural disasters – lightning, flash floods and thunderstorms – by providing emergency houses using steel and sandbag technologies, as well as accessories such as gel stoves, solar lights, solar radios and lightning conductors.

These interventions go a long way in assisting affected households to recover and give government an opportunity to pilot new ways to help vulnerable households.

Another challenge is access to clean, piped water for rural communities. The department has revived existing boreholes and drilled eight new ones in Limpopo. Elsewhere in the country, the department, working with its national, provincial and local counterparts, facilitated the installation of 400 rainwater-harvesting tanks; constructed a water reservoir in Msinga, KwaZulu-Natal; drilled and equipped boreholes; had a water reservoir under construction in Disake, North West; and a 37-km water pipeline from the Orange River to Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape, was nearing completion.

framework is an integrated programme of rural development, land reform and agrarian change, whose strategic focus is social cohesion and development.

The CRDP is premised on three phases: Phase One, which focuses on meeting basic human needs; Phase Two, which has large-scale infrastructure development as driver; and Phase Three, with the emergence of rural industrial and credit financial sectors, which is driven by small-, medium- and micro-enterprises and village markets.

By October 2011, the CRDP was being implemented at 65 sites across the country. Some 33 560 ha of agricultural land had been acquired to provide emerging farmers with access to land. Some 116 farms have been recapitalised by providing funds for, among other things, infrastructure, mechanisation, seeds, livestock and the transfer of skills by commercial farmers to enhance the productivity of transferred farms.

In each area where the CRDP is being implemented, a new vibrancy has been created around working together, involving communities, the three spheres of government and the private sector. This has enabled communities to mobilise resources from all sectors of government to enhance delivery.

Key role players in the land-reform sector have set a goal that all land-reform farms should be 100% productive and sustainable within the next three years.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has set aside R3,3 billion for land reform, excluding the restitution programme.

Of that amount, R2 billion had been earmarked for strategic land acquisition of about 303 612 ha and R1,3 billion for making all land-reform farms fully functional and 100% productive, through the Recapitalisation and Development Programme. This is expected to cover an additional 387 farms and revitalise 27 irrigation schemes, which have already been identified across the country.

An inclusive CRDP stakeholder participation model has been developed in the form of the Council of Stakeholders, functioning as a partner in planning, implementation and monitoring. Through this inclusive body, communities themselves have become central to their own development.

Through the work undertaken at the CRDP sites, and in conjunction with fellow departments at national, provincial and local government level, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform erected infrastructure such as housing, water, sanitation, pack-sheds, community halls, multipurpose centres, early childhood development centres and satellite police stations; and renovated schools and clinics.

The department initiated a new youth skills development and employment programme, the National Rural Youth Service Corps. The main goal is to develop a cadre of young community paraprofessionals and artisans who will take responsibility for the development of their own communities.

Four young people, of whom one must be a person with a disability, are expected to be enlisted into the programme from each of the 2 872 rural wards. At least 50% of these must be women.

The contractual period, including the training period is 24 months. This process will lead to the employment and skilling of almost 12 000 youths, of whom almost 3 000 should be youth with disabilities.

In its initial phase, it enlisted 7 958 young people between 18 and 35 years old, with a minimum educational standard of Grade 10. They were drawn from rural wards across the country, including farms, small rural towns and some peri-urban areas.

Of these, 600 have gone through 10 days of training in self-orientation and life skills through further education and training colleges and 500 have gone through two months of non-military training, mainly character development, personal discipline and patriotism. Each one receives a stipend of R60 a day, which will be increased as they receive high-level skills training.

Land reform

The introduction of the CRDP, of which land reform is an integral part, has necessitated that the approach be overhauled and new strategies adopted. While achieving equitable distribution of land remains a fundamental policy of government, there is an even more urgent need to ensure that land reform is measured not only through equity but also through productivity, leading to enhanced food security for all, job creation and skills training among beneficiaries.

In 2011, the Land Reform Programme had a target of 283 592 ha for the acquisition of strategically located land and a target of 504 farms was set for developing farms in distress through recapitalisation and development. The programme has transferred 322 844,9931 ha, equalling 288 projects and provided access to land to 3 089 beneficiaries through either leases or caretakership agreements. Of the total number of delivered hectares, 276 396,6893 ha were registered in the name of the State and the remaining 46 448,3038 ha were transferred through Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development to finalise the commitments the department had at the time of the shift from grants-based land reform to the Pro-Active Land Acquisition Strategy.

In August 2011, Cabinet received the *Green Paper on Land Reform*, 2011 for public comment. The thrust of the Green Paper is based on the view that:

A self-empowerment project initiated five years ago is improving the lives of 600 women in Swayimane, a disadvantaged rural community in KwaZulu-Natal. Through the Zimele (meaning "I am self-reliant" in isiZulu) Self-Help and Savings Programme, a non-profit organisation that seeks to improve the quality of life in KwaZulu-Natal's rural areas, the women were able to start small businesses. They were able to save more than R170 000 over the five years of the scheme's existence. Together with loans amounting to R292 932, the savings fund bankrolled the women's enterprises such as businesses in agriculture, crafts, retail and catering.

- separate rural development and land reform be aligned at policy programme and institutional levels to ensure coordinated service delivery
- in pursuit of agrarian transformation, there is a link between the land question and agriculture as the basis for the search for an economic rationale and a vision of a post-reform agrarian structure.

The demand for land may also be for other productive but non-agricultural uses.

The change agenda pursued in the Green Paper is to create a new trajectory for land reform. A set of proposals is put forward, which attempts to break from the past without significantly disrupting agricultural production and food security, and to avoid redistributions that do not generate livelihoods, employment and incomes.

The Green Paper focuses on seven key areas, namely:
- a vision for land reform
- principles underlying land reform
- current challenges and weaknesses: rationale for change
- an improved trajectory for land reform (including institutions to support land reform)
- the strategic thrust for land reform

Indigenous people in South Africa have sustained their unique world views and associated knowledge systems for millennia, even while undergoing major social upheaval as a result of forces beyond their control. Many of the core values, beliefs and practices associated with those world views have survived and are beginning to be recognised as having an adaptive integrity that is as valid for today's generations as it was for the past generations.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, through the Chief Directorate: Technology, Research and Development, has embarked on an awareness campaign on indigenous knowledge at Comprehensive Rural Development Programme sites in the nine provinces.

The awareness campaign primarily seeks to recognise, collect, document, restore and exhibit indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), to protect, preserve and promote their existence. The project also intends to empower rural communities in ways through which they can improve their socio-economic status using IKS, such as patent-ing and commercialising their IKS products and instilling pride in their use of IKS. The awareness workshops consist of traditional activities such as music, dance, poetry and African cuisine.

- land-reform experiences elsewhere
- challenges and constraints.

The department is working on a number of policy initiatives over the medium term.

The *Green Paper on Agrarian Transformation, Rural Development and Land Reform* had been gazetted by May 2011, followed by a White Paper that was expected to be submitted to Cabinet in 2012.

The department is proposing a three-tiered system of land ownership in South Africa. The three tiers will be:
- state land, which will be under leasehold
- private land, which will be held under freehold with limited extent
- foreign ownership, with precarious tenure linked to productivity and partnership models with South African citizens.

Land redistribution

The land redistribution programme is largely implemented through the Provision of Land and Assistance Act, 1993.

By 2010, 5,9 million ha of land had been acquired through redistribution and restitution.

The tenure issues of millions of South Africans living and working on farms, and in communal areas and small rural towns remain a challenge for government.

Recapitalisation and development

The Recapitalisation and Development Programme is aimed at resuscitating all distressed land-reform projects implemented since 1994. In 2010/11, the department had planned to develop 504 farms in distress. It advertised 852 projects and 411 farms were selected for recapitalisation and development. Irrigation systems were installed in Boschhoek, Igalelo and at Nxamalala in Msinga in KwaZulu-Natal.

The department worked with its stakeholders towards revitalising seven defunct irrigation schemes at an estimated cost of R370 million. This project was expected to be implemented in 2011/12. It is envisaged that this programme will contribute a great deal to improving food security in the country.

By August 2011, the Recapitalisation and Development Programme had been implemented at 171 farms across the country, creating at least 1 316 permanent jobs and 2 724 short-term employment opportunities.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM

Land administration

The department aims to provide value-added public land information and support services to clients and to ensure the efficient administration of state land.

Land-rights management

The department aims to provide tenure security that creates socio-economic opportunities for people on farms and in communal areas to ensure vibrant and sustainable communities characterised by social cohesion and development.

Geospatial services, technology development and disaster management

The department is responsible for the national control survey network, the national mapping and aerial imagery programmes and the provision of geospatial information services.

Cadastral survey management

The Cadastral Survey Management Branch aims to provide efficient cadastral survey-management services and cadastral information services in support of land delivery and development.

Deeds registration

The 10 deeds registries are located in Pretoria, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, King William's Town, Vryburg, Mthatha and Nelspruit. These offices register deeds and documents relating to real rights in more than eight million registered land parcels consisting of township erven, farms, agricultural holdings, sectional title units and sectional title exclusive-use areas in terms of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937 and the Sectional Titles Act, 1986.

Deeds registration has progressively introduced e-Cadastre, which is aimed at improving cadastral surveys management and deeds registration as well as the consolidation of data stores.

By 31 March 2011, a total of 904 928 deeds and documents had been registered countrywide.

The e-Cadastre Project's enterprise architecture investigation, which is aimed at consolidating cadastral surveys and

deeds registration data stores, has been concluded. Digital scanning of the microfilm records has commenced.

Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR)

The CRLR is a statutory body set up in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994, as amended. The role of the commission is to provide redress to victims of dispossession of rights in land, as a result of racially discriminatory laws and practices that took place after 19 June 1913.

The CRLR settled 457 claims between April 2010 and March 2011, benefiting 13 310 households. Consequently, 124 507 260 ha were restored and the cost of land paid amounted to over R800 million. The financial compensation paid to beneficiaries was over R460 million.