

Executive Summary:

This project aims to provide advice that can "assist municipalities with incorporating regionalism into mainstream integrated development planning".

The selected municipalities were identified by The Municipal Demarcation Board and included 278 municipalities in South Africa, comprising eight metropolitans, 44 district and 226 local municipalities. The focus was on growing local economies and providing infrastructure and services.

Each municipality within an economic region must be able to commit flexibly, but credibly, to a regional plan that takes advantage of the spatial economic opportunity within the region.

At a minimum, the plan must:

1. Identify the opportunity for collaboration at regional and sub-regional levels, and
2. Specify threats and externalities that may need to be managed.

REGIONALISM

The interdependency of towns within a region is a fundamental assumption in regional planning. For this reason, the regional-space economy approach to development planning requires multi-sectoral and long-term planning.

Such a framework would need to be long-term and match sufficiently contiguous economic geography within which the economic value chains and levers are present.

It could identify strategic projects that would benefit all, as well as sub-regional initiatives that use the local potential and opportunities.

The document includes a detailed definition of regionalism that can shed light on this:

Regionalism entails the delineation of a space or series of spaces as a region or regions in accordance with a real or imagined:

- Social, economic, natural, topographical, climatic, cultural, or political characteristics, or series of such characteristics.
- Set of systemically related connections/flows between people and places that have led or could lead to creating and sustaining a functional ecological unit/system.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- The National Spatial Development Framework, Draft 2020 (NSDF) and a study published by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) point out that many functional regions already exist and that understanding the nature of these areas could unlock potential.
- The NSDF also identifies meso-regions that stretch across administrative boundaries and focuses on shared economic and physical attributes.

- The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (SPLUMA) provides for regional spatial development frameworks (SDF).
- As cross-sectoral planning instruments, Integrated Development Plans (IDP) respond to political and administrative boundaries.
- The "Back to Basics" programme (2014/15) requires municipalities to focus on their powers and functions rather than trying to solve problems with unattainable 'wish lists'.
- These notions are supported by President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement of the roll-out of the District Development Model (DDM) during his State of the Nation Address on 28 February 2020.

Therefore, the strategic plans of a municipality should take cognisance of a wider context that extends beyond local plans, due to the geographical limitations and short-term planning horizons of IDPs.

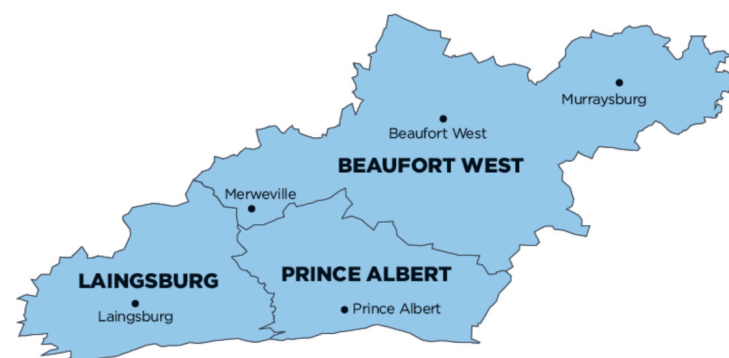
This broader scope will ensure that local governments effectively perform their custodial role within local economies to ensure the long-term sustainability of the municipality.

Bojanala Platinum District Municipality including five local municipalities (Municipalities of SA, 2020)



© municipalities.co.za

Central Karoo District Municipality with the three Local Municipalities (Municipalities of South Africa, 2020)



© municipalities.co.za

CONSULTATION FINDINGS:

- IGR is more of a conflict management tool (Bojanala district). It is also largely done for compliance purposes such as DCF and DCF technical (Bojanala and Central Karoo districts).
- Some level of engagement does occur between municipalities and district municipalities, but this is generally sporadic (Bojanala district).
- Existing plans and planning processes are in place or do take place, but little is done in terms of implementation.
- Transport links and routes are not exploited or used. They are either not sufficiently exploited by all municipalities along the route such as in Bojanala (N4) or avoided due to competition for investment and resources as in the Central Karoo (N1).
- Resource availability is an issue in both districts; capacity/skills and financial resources are difficult to acquire and this makes regional planning difficult.
- SOE engagement (Central Karoo) is difficult or near impossible despite attempts to engage or requests for information.
- Settlements within the district such as main node are recognised for their importance but not really taken into serious consideration in projects or plans. Influence of the places is noted but beyond this little is done.
- Collaboration between municipalities may need to be developed to ensure improved attendance.

Bojanala Platinum District Municipality NSDF interpretation (Cadre Plan (pty) Ltd, 2020)

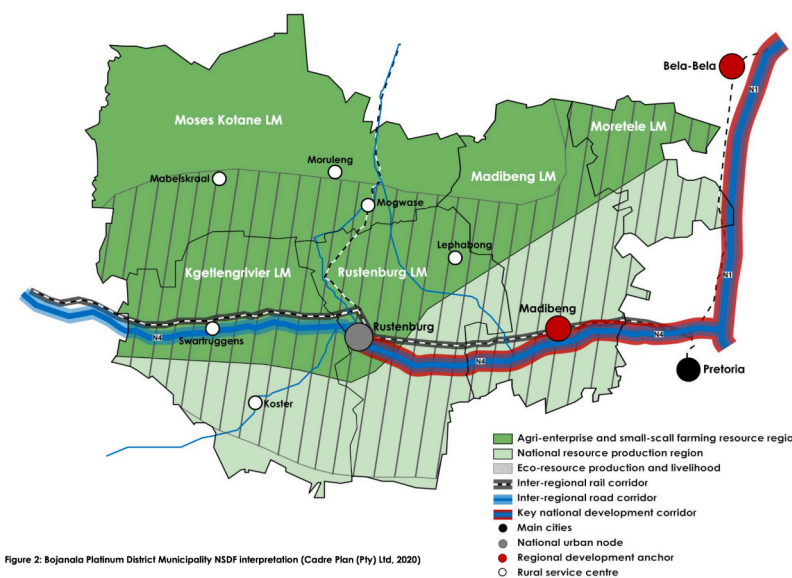
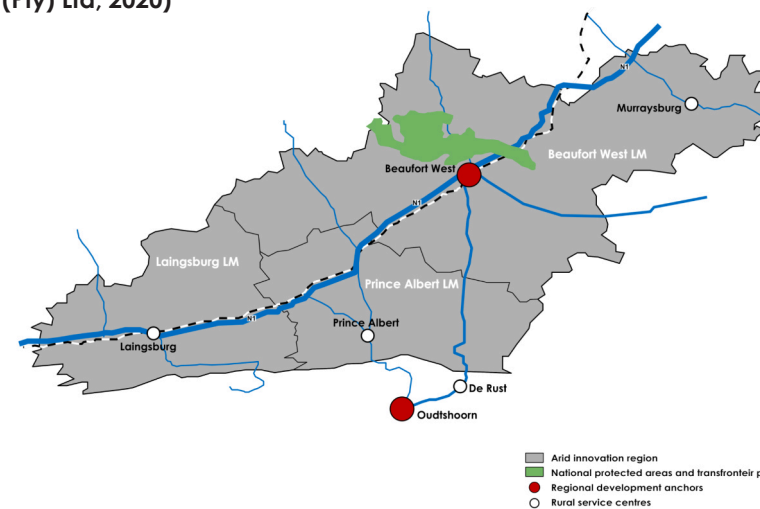


Figure 2: Bojanala Platinum District Municipality NSDF Interpretation (Cadre Plan (Pty) Ltd, 2020)

Central Karoo District Municipality NSDF interpretation (Cadre Plan (Pty) Ltd, 2020)



Assisting selected municipalities with incorporating regionalism into mainstream Integrated Development Planning (IDP)

August 2020

Key Information:

For this project, Cadre was appointed to find new ways of incorporating regionalism into local IDPs through consultation processes and data gathering.

CONSULTATION FINDINGS

The consultation process involved several meetings, primarily through electronic and remote methods.

The meeting process was initially intended to take place in each of the respective districts used for the case study. The initial plan was to have face to face engagements in all of the respective districts. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic alternative engagement methods such as online questionnaires and remote meeting software was used.

The general process of engagement was split into three steps:

- Initial Mentimeter questionnaire – online questionnaire (initial inputs).
- Zoom meetings – meeting per district.
- Final Mentimeter questionnaire – online questionnaire (additional comments and inputs following meetings).

CLIENT FEEDBACK

The project was undertaken successfully and all deliverables were met to our satisfaction

-Mxolisi Mchunu Senior Advisor,
Economic and Regional
Development (SALGA)

Project Details:

Location: National
Time-frame: 4 months
Project lead: Reinier Minny, Dr Johnny Coetzee
Key Support: Dylan La Loux
Core Consulting: The Cadre Group
Team: 081 265 0800
reinier@cadreplan.co.za



Client: South African Local
Government
Association

