



### Spatial Development Framework STERKSPRUIT

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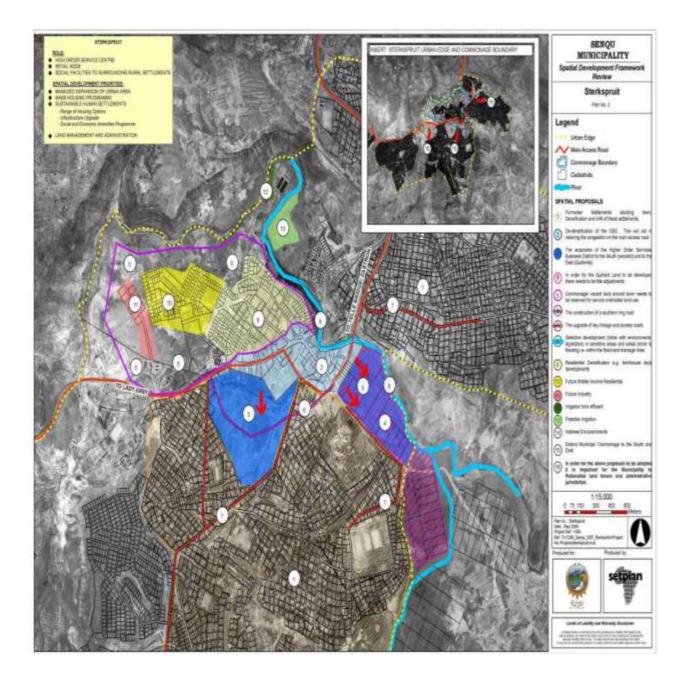
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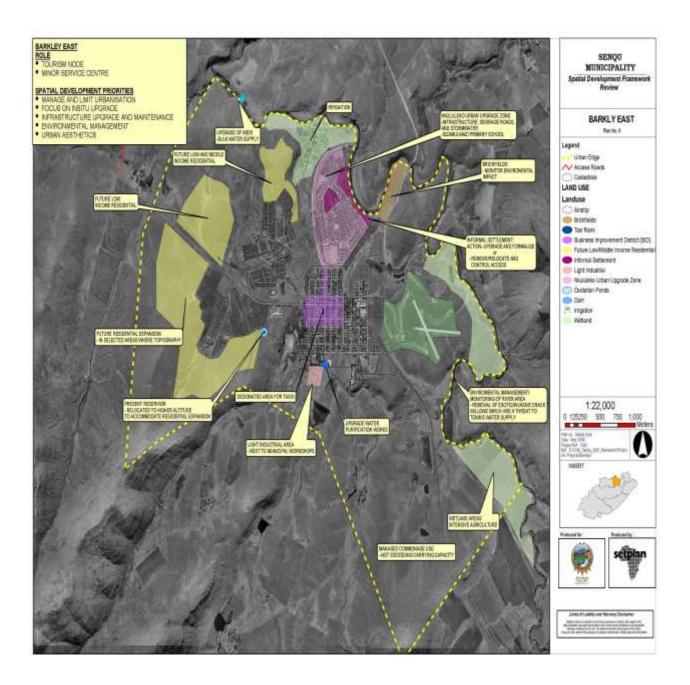
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# ANNEXURE 10: SUMMARY OF SPATIAL PROPOSALS

Introduction

This chapter focuses on two elements that, together, make up the forward planning mechanism of the Spatial Development Framework for the Senqu Municipality.

The two elements are described as follows: -

**Spatial Structuring Elements** 

These are concepts or "planning tools" that are used to identify areas or special features of areas that enable the Senqu Municipality to "make sense" of their responsibility to carry out municipal planning.

Recognising the need to plan for human settlement efficiency, optimum usage of resources and sustainability, there is a need to focus limited public resources in areas of opportunity and create maximum impact. These spatial structuring elements enable the Municipality to identify areas where different types of land uses would be permitted and/or discouraged and thus form the building blocks that guide future planning in the Sengu area.

The Senqu Spatial Development Framework proposes to make use of four spatial structuring elements, as follows: -

- The concept of **Development Nodes**
- The concept of **Development Corridors**
- The concept of defined Urban Edges
- Areas where Environmental Constraints apply

## Special Development Areas

Special Development Areas (SDAs) are geographical areas where, in order to achieve both the objectives of the Senqu Integrated Development Plan *and* the related objectives of the Spatial Development Framework, the Senqu Municipality would need to prioritise its development efforts and capital expenditure.

### **Spatial Structuring Elements**

This section focuses on the four basic **Spatial Structuring Elements** that guide spatial development decision-making in the Senqu area: these elements are used to manage and guide development into certain patterns or arrangements, which are intended to promote more efficient future development

### **Development Nodes of Importance**

Nodes are generally described as areas of mixed-use development, usually having a higher intensity of activities involving retail, office, commercial and residential land uses. These are the places where most interaction takes place between people and organisations, enabling the most efficient transactions and exchange of goods and services.

Nodes are usually located on main transport routes to provide maximum access and usually act as catalysts for new growth and development in areas adjacent to the nodes. As such, they are areas where the following should be prioritised: -

- Appropriate levels of development investment in infrastructure.
- Appropriate land use management to promote preferred development outcomes.

The following classes of node have been identified and/or are proposed as indicated on Plan 1: Spatial Priorities and Plan 2: Spatial Priorities – Sterkspruit District:

NODE TYPE	AREA/LOCALITY	DESCRIPTION
Municipal Level – Primary Urban Node	Sterkspruit	The primary urban settlement in Senqu, providing social facilities to surrounding rural settlements, this

NODE TYPE	AREA/LOCALITY	DESCRIPTION			
		area should be targeted for the following: -         Managed expansion of urban area         Large-scale sustainable human settlement programme         Development of regional social facilities, including tertiary educational institutions, and sports and recreational facilities         Land use management that focuses on establishing the CBD as an attractive area to do business in.         Formalisation of neighbouring settlements that have been engulfed by the urban area         Rationalisation of land tenure and administration jurisdiction arrangements			
Municipal Level – Secondary (Minor) Urban Node	Lady Grey and Barkly East	These areas should be targeted for the following: -  Manage and limit urbanisation  Focus on in-situ upgrade  Focus on tourism-related development  Infrastructure upgrade and maintenance  Environmental management  Urban aesthetics			
Municipal Level - Tertiary Node	Rhodes & Rossouw	Limit urbanisation and extension     Infrastructure upgrade and maintenance     Environmental management     Urban aesthetics			
Municipal Level – Higher Order Rural Settlement Nodes	Herschel  Qoboshane/ Palmietfontein  Majuba – A  Hillside – E  Upper Telle – A	<ul> <li>Priority public sector investment</li> <li>Infrastructure upgrade and maintenance</li> <li>Environmental management</li> <li>Land management and administration</li> </ul>			
Central Business Districts (CDBs)	Sterkspruit	The Sterkspruit CBD is the most important locality for local economic development and serves as a regional centre to a wide hinterland. It should be prioritised for: -  A CBD Revitalisation Framework, which is aimed at identifying optimum land use and traffic arrangements in the locality.			

**Development Corridors of Importance** 

As with nodes, development corridors are described in planning terms as roads or railway routes that are usually associated with the movement of people between places. This function of facilitating movement of people along a route also means that these "movement corridors" have the potential to accommodate development of different levels of intensity and a mix of land uses.

• Mobility Routes are defined as roads with limited access that principally carry traffic between major nodes.

As per the definition outlined above, the following corridors are identified within the municipality: -

TYPE	AREA/DESCRIPTION OF LOCALITY			
Mobility Routes – Municipal level	<ul> <li>R58 Elliot- Aliwal North</li> <li>R392 Sterkspruit - Telle Bridge Border Post – access to Lesotho</li> <li>R726 Sterkspruit – Zastron/ Free State</li> </ul>			

Urban Edges

The concept of an urban edge is most commonly used to identify the outer limits of areas where the Municipality would prefer to see an urban level of development. In short, the urban edge defines the proposed boundary line where the transition from the urban area to peri-urban and rural development is seen to be desirable, involving differing land use characteristics and density of development

Accordingly, as part of the effort to consolidate the urban areas and achieve a more compact settlement in Senqu, the Spatial Development Framework proposes that an Urban Edge be defined for each area beyond which it is envisaged that lower density rural development will be favoured.

It is important to note that the Urban Edge defines the zone within which the municipality will endeavour to upgrade levels of infrastructure over a period of time and according to available resources, to support higher densities of residential, industrial, and commercial development.

Beyond the Urban Edge, it is envisaged that rural communities will enjoy lower density environments with basic infrastructure and social facilities.

Finally, one of the primary functions of the Urban Edge is to protect valuable agricultural land from being eroded by urban sprawl. For this purpose, agricultural land is seen as all land zoned for agricultural purposes plus all land (whether zoned or not) that was defined as agricultural land in terms of the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act (Act No. 70 of 1970) and land currently used for either commercial or non-commercial agricultural purposes: excluding land identified in the Spatial Development Framework for non-agricultural development.

The following principles apply: -

- The future identification of Prime and Unique Agricultural land is held to represent a limitation on the use of such land for non-agricultural purposes.
- In addition, urban agricultural activities in appropriate localities is strongly supported and the Senqu Municipality should investigate forming a joint partnership approach to this issue with the Department of Agriculture and, if possible, relevant NGOs.
- Lastly, rural agriculture is held to be a prime resource in Senqu and needs to be nurtured in both formal commercial enterprises as well as in the traditional rural settlement areas, where much value could be realised by appropriate support and management of resources.

### **Environmental Constraints**

The environmental conservation and management areas in Senqu comprise all afforested areas, nature reserves, river flood plains, steep slopes in excess of 1 in 6 gradient and fragile ecosystems. The following points are noted: -

- A key consideration and structuring element is the definition by the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan of Biodiversity Land Management Classes (BLMCs) in the Municipal area.
   In particular, BLMCs 1 and 2 are noted as areas of high sensitivity. As such, these areas should be protected from high-impact land uses.
- At a local level, the impact of 1:100-Year floodlines needs to be calculated and illustrated on all Site Development Plans

### Special Development Areas

In order to give a focus for the organisational activities of the Municipality as it strives to achieve its developmental goals, several specific areas (or geographic localities) have been identified as Special Development Areas. These are: -

- Sterkspruit District
- Sterkspruit Town
- Lady Grey
- Barkly East
- Rhodes and Rossouw

### The Sterkspruit District

The Sterkspruit district is defined as the geographic area surrounding the town of Sterkspruit and comprising a number of rural settlements in what was formerly a portion of the Transkei.

There are many rural settlements scattered through this region, but 5 settlements can be prioritised as secondary service centres by virtue of the fact that they are more easily accessible to road linkages and that they are generally the settlements where the majority of social facilities including schools, clinics and police stations are located.

These 5 settlements are:

- Herschel
- Qoboshane/ Palmietfontein
- Majuba A
- Hillside E
- Upper Telle A

These differ slightly from the settlements earmarked in the Ukhahlamba District IDP as secondary service centres, but represent the agreement reached by the community on the need to prioritise the eastern portion of the municipality due to the constraints to development and access as a result of the topography.

The rationale for the choice of settlements as service centres relates to the terrain / topography which limits the accessibility of the area and increases the need to develop locally accessible nodes.

### Sterkspruit Town

The specific proposals for Sterkspruit are indicated on the map. The historical development of Sterkspruit has not followed traditional development patterns and practices, which generally result in a town developing from the central business district outwards as the demand and need for additional land for development is experienced.

Sterkspruit seems to have experienced its development pressures from the outside inwards, as a result of the intensive development on the fringes of the town, which are now exerting pressure on the central area. The result is that the central area (CBD) cannot cope with the demands for land and the related traffic congestion which is currently being experienced in Sterkspruit. In addition, the road layout has not been designed to deal with the additional development pressures and resultant traffic flows, exacerbating the situation.

It will be necessary for detailed planning to be done on the Sterkspruit town and its urban edge, in order to deal with the problems which have arisen.

The urban edge proposed for Sterkspruit in the previous SDF is still relevant and should be retained. Specific proposals as set out in the map are:

- 1. Formalise settlements abutting the town Densification and infill
- 2. De-densification of the CBD. This will aid in relieving the congestion on the main access road
- 3. The expansion of the higher order services business district to the South (woodlot) and to the East (Quitrent land)
- 4. In order for the Quitrent land to be developed, a Titles Adjustment process is required
- 5. Commonage/ vacant land around the town needs to be reserved for service orientated land uses
- 6. The construction of a proposed southern ring road
- 7. The upgrade of key linkage and access roads.
- 8. Selective development in line with environmental legislation in sensitive areas and areas prone to flooding, i.e. within the flood and drainage lines
- 9. Residential densification eg townhouse style development
- 10. Proposed future middle income residential area
- 11. Proposed future industry
- 12. Irrigation from effluent
- 13. Possible irrigation
- 14. Address encroachments
- 15. Extend the municipal commonage to the South and East
- 16. In order for the above proposals to be adopted, it is important for the Municipality to rationalise land tenure and administrative jurisdiction.

Key Spatial Planning Programmes and Priority Projects

In order to give effect to the Spatial Development Framework, two spatial development programmes and related priority projects are identified. These are noted as: -

- The Urban and Rural Forward Planning Programme
- The Land Use Management Programme

The Forward Planning Programme

The Spatial Development Framework, by definition, is an overall indicative plan highlighting the key direction for spatial growth and development in the Sengu Municipal area.

However, the broad nature of the Framework cannot cover the forward planning requirements of specific localities where development pressures are felt. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Municipality establish a **Forward Planning Programme** that addresses any needs for the formulation of more detailed forward-looking spatial plans.

The proposed key Forward Planning Projects for the Senqu Municipality are proposed below: -

# **Key Forward Planning Projects**

	Project Title	Reason for Project's Importance	Est. Cost (ZAR)	2009/2010	2013/14
1.	Sterkspruit CBD Revitalisation Framework	This project is needed to put in place a detailed framework for land development and traffic management in the Sterkspruit CBD and immediate surrounds.	NDPG FUNDING	NDPG FUNDING	
2.	Greater Sterkspruit Local Spatial Development Framework	This project is needed to put in place a detailed Spatial Development Framework to manage land development in the <u>Greater</u> Sterkspruit area.	NDPG FUNDING	NDPG FUNDING	
		Issues that need to be resolved are the linkages between the urban area and the surrounding rural settlement areas, and the incorporation of urban agriculture elements within the urban edge.			
		The proposed budget makes allowance for the inclusion of agricultural development specialists on the Planning Team.			

The Land Use Management Programme

The Land Use Management Programme addresses the ongoing need for the Senqu Municipality to engage in proactive land use management in both urban and rural areas, in line with the intentions of the new spatial planning system in South Africa.

Key activities forming part of this programme are the establishment of an integrated GIS-based dataset logging all cadastral data and financial management data in a user-friendly system. Part of this dataset should be made up of key information on land uses and, where applicable, cadastrally defined land use zones as per applicable Zoning Schemes and/or the Land Use Planning Ordinance Scheme Regulations.

The proposed key Land Use Management Projects for the Senqu Municipality are proposed below: -

# **Key Land Use Management Projects**

			Est.		
	Project Title	Reason for Project's Importance	Cost	2009/2010	2013/2014
			(ZAR)		
1.	Implementation of first generation Integrated Zoning Scheme for the Greater Sterkspruit area	This project is needed to put in place a more functional Zoning Scheme to enhance the Municipality's performance of its land use regulation role.	NDPG FUNDING	NDPG FUNDING	
2.	Development of a "Process Manual" on managing spatial planning and land use management processes	The proposed Process Manual is required to assist the Local Municipalities in establishing clear and efficient processes to undertake their responsibilities in terms of spatial planning and land use management.	NDPG FUNDING	NDPG FUNDING	
		It is intended that the Manual should provide protocols for handling typical land development applications, including applications for land use change (rezonings, special consents and departures), and township development in terms of applicable legislative instruments. The Manual should also provide guidance on the handling of building plan approvals, and the management of environmental requirements in terms of applicable legislation.  This manual should be workshopped with traditional leaders in the area to ensure that areas of responsibility regarding land use management are clearly understood and agreed on.			
3.	Land tenure rationalisation and titles adjustment	In order to deal with land tenure and title adjustment in the Sterkspruit and surrounding areas, it will be necessary to liaise with the Department of Land Affairs (now Department of Rural Development and Land Reform)	NDPG FUNDING	NDPG FUNDING	

		Est.		
Project Title	Reason for Project's Importance	Cost	2009/2010	2013/2014
		(ZAR)		
	with a view to providing solutions to unlock communal land for development and facilitate applicable title to land.			

Source: Senqu SDF 2013