

eastern cape socio-economic consultative council

company profile



ecsecc

eastern cape socio economic consultative council

vision · mission · values

vision

A poverty-free Eastern Cape in which all of its people benefit from the economy. All of the objectives underpin the organisational vision.

mission

The mission of ECSECC is to make a substantive contribution to the realisation of the vision and objectives of the PGDP through further consolidating and developing its niche as a multi-stakeholder centre of excellence in applied policy research, development planning and facilitation.

values

ECSECC's values are drawn from the Liberation Struggle and from leading international socio-economic policy research institutes. ECSECC is committed to non-racialism, non-sexism, human dignity and democracy. With the focus on uplifting the poor, ECSECC works in a consultative, cooperative and innovative mode with all stakeholders, offering professionalism, accountability and transparency.



background

The Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council (ECSECC) is a consultative council comprising stakeholders from Provincial Government, organised labour, the private sector, the NGO sector and Higher Education and Local Government.

ECSECC was founded in 1995, a period characterised by deep-rooted political, economic and social problems faced by a newly elected ANC-led Government and the beginning of the transformation of the Provincial Government, the administration and the provincial economy. The advent of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), a socio-economic policy framework brought about the maturing of a political culture of commitment to new forms of development cooperation.

ECSECC was originally established to assist the Provincial Government and its social partners in implementing an integrated set of programmes through which to take up the challenges as outlined by the RDP.

ECSECC was instrumental in the implementation of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy in 1997 and is integrally involved in the current Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP), 2004-2014. A strategic framework has been developed and concrete programmes, aimed at rapid improvement in the quality of life of the Province's poorest people, are being implemented. Within this context ECSECC conducts its primary function – to facilitate positive social and economic change in the Eastern Cape, informed by the shared values of social justice, poverty eradication, job creation and economic growth.

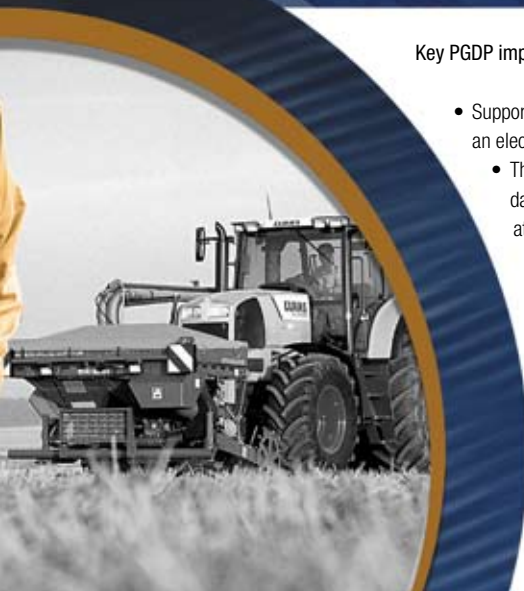
strategic objectives

The principal objective of ECSECC is to advise and assist Provincial Government to achieve an integrated development strategy for the Province and its constituent regions, in order to address the economic development of the Province in terms of the Reconstruction and Development Programme and, in particular, the needs of deprived communities and underdeveloped areas. (ECSECC Founding Document, 31 July 1995)

More specific objectives of ECSECC are:

- To facilitate and co-ordinate the implementation of development programmes between all key stakeholders in the Province
- To provide an avenue for formal inputs into the policy-making process of Government
- To support Government in advancing the efficient delivery of development
- To empower communities and grass-root structures of civil society to engage in development
- To assist Provincial Government in developing policies and strategies that will facilitate the growth of the provincial economy





Key PGDP implementation support activities of ECSECC include:

- Supporting the Office of the Premier to develop and implement an electronic Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system
 - The development and maintenance of a socio-economic database in support of M&E and evidence-base planning at all three levels of government
 - Ongoing reviewing, refinement and packaging of PGDP priority programmes
 - Strategic planning support to Clusters and line departments to facilitate integration of PGDP priorities into Strategic and Performance Plans and budgets
 - Planning support to municipalities to align IDPs and the PGDP
- Stakeholder mobilisation and coordination in support of PGDP delivery
- Facilitating partnerships between Government and civil society organisations to fight poverty
- Training and capacity building of public officials to enhance the readiness of Government for PGDP implementation
- Development of sector strategies
- LED planning and facilitation support to municipalities

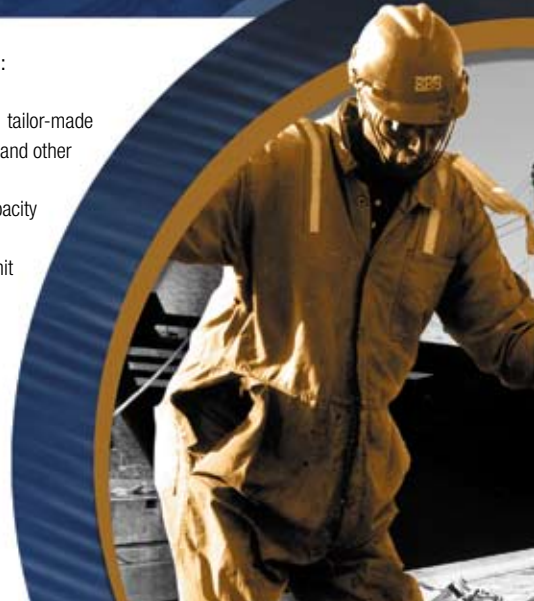
In addition ECSECC provides institutional support to the Eastern Cape AIDS Council to improve the coordination and impact of the HIV/AIDS programmes in the Province.

strategic planning and development facilitation programme

This programme strengthens the capacity of special communities in development practice to contribute to the implementation of the PGDP and, ultimately, to a poverty free Eastern Cape; provides a platform for formal inputs from key communities of development practice into policy formulation and implementation; co-ordinates and monitors the Provincial Jobs Summit Agreement and ensures ongoing dialogue among and between the social partners.

The programme focuses primarily on the following:

- Developing, designing and facilitating the use of tailor-made strategic planning tools for Provincial Government and other development communities
- Developing and implementing long-range capacity development interventions
- Coordinating and monitoring the Job Summit Agreement
- Providing a platform for policy dialogue within and between key development communities



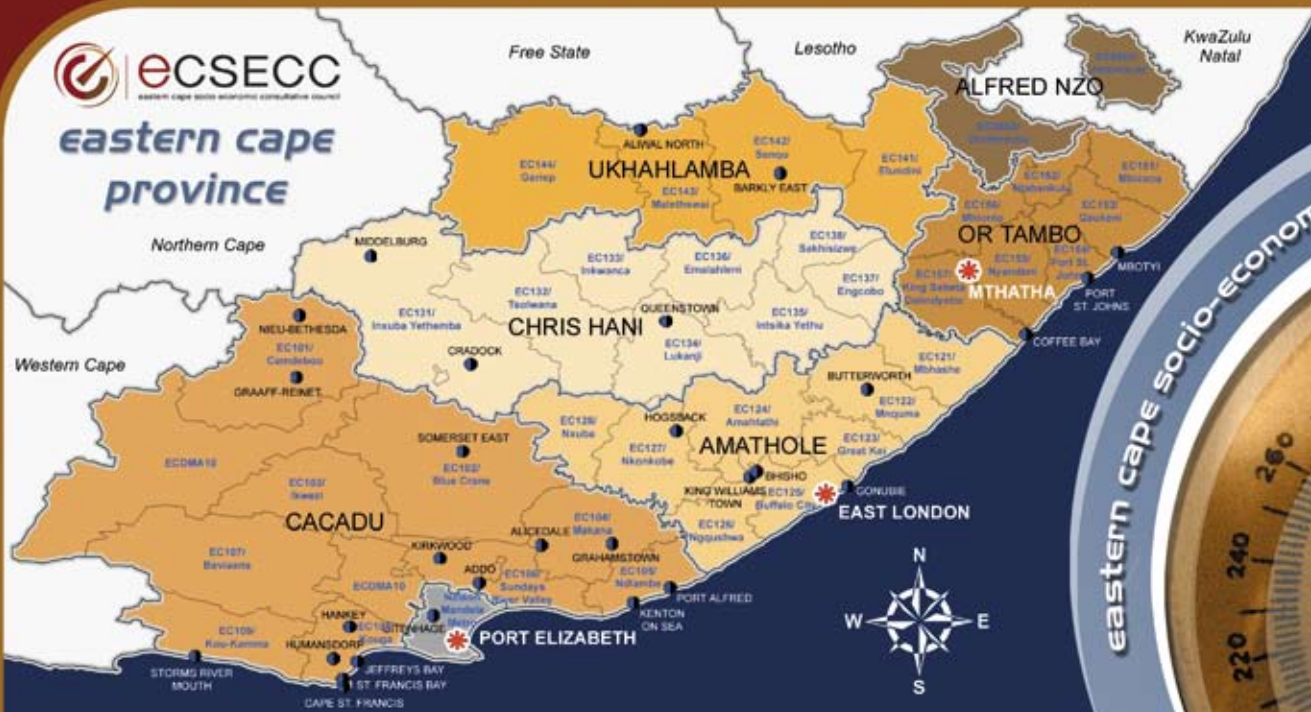


Through the programme, ECSECC has facilitated the following:

- The Harold Wolpe lecture series - a partnership between ECSECC, University of Fort Hare, Rhodes University and the Harold Wolpe Trust. Highlights include the delivery of lectures by Dr Lungisile Ntsebeza and Prof. Neville Alexander
 - Strategic planning sessions for legislature portfolio committees (Office of the Premier; Local Government and Traditional Affairs; Agriculture; Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism; Youth, Women and the Disabled; Public Works and The Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committees)
- Workshops on implementation and monitoring of Job Summit Agreements (e.g. Cosatu workshop)
- A consultation and research process, in partnership with University of Fort Hare and DEAET on the need for a provincial cooperatives strategy as outlined by the Job Summit agreement.

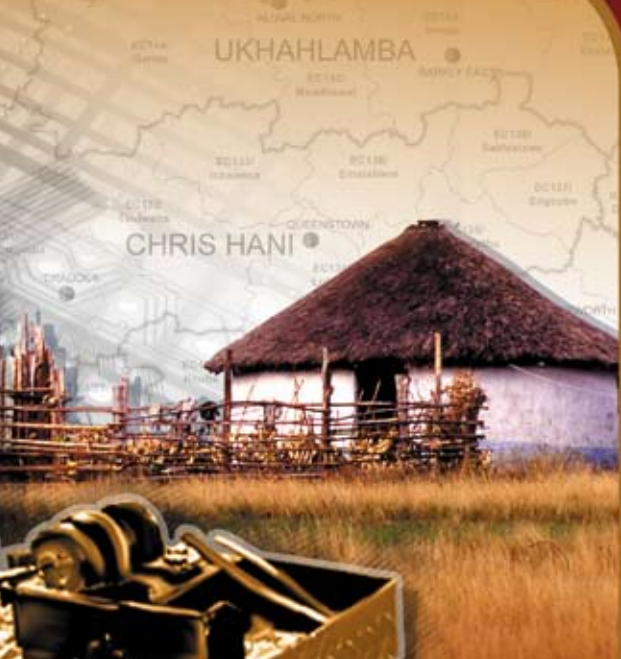


eastern cape province



the council

your socio-economic compass



policy research and information unit

The main objective of the programme is to coordinate and support initiatives aimed at strengthening and developing the economic content of the PGDP; facilitate the formation of more informed and planned interventions to address poverty and unemployment and; meet the socio-economic and IT needs of a range of stakeholders.

This programme has made a significant contribution to improving the quality and accessibility of information to all stakeholders through:

- Analysis, utilising both statistical and spatial (GIS) data
- Co-ordinating and facilitating the development of sector strategies in support of PGDP
- Providing strategic and technical support to district growth and development summits and sector summits
- Developing a socio-economic profile of the Province and
- Providing information support to the other ECSECC programmes

The programme's involvement extends to:

- Conducting research to inform the Provincial industrial development strategy process
- Compiling the industrial development strategy framework
- Input/participation in the Provincial Skills Development Planning process and Provincial Priority Skills Plan
- Facilitating development of provincial socio-economic data, establishment of information and impact monitoring hub
- Supporting the Economy Portfolio committee on environment/tourism strategic planning
- Providing socio-economic information to the Provincial and Local Government, Labour, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations



developmental government support programme



The main function of this programme is to provide strategy and planning support for the local state, facilitate pro-poor growth strategy and facilitate new alliances and coalitions, particularly with local state, with focus on:

- Support of the planned Summits on Growth & Development
- IDP support to municipalities (focussing on the District Municipalities and the Metro)
- Local Economic Development (LED) Support

The programme has received significant response to the following;

- A concept paper for the 2006 Provincial Local Government Summit, informing Local Government Summits
- A concept paper for Growth and Development Summit
- Technical support on conceptualisation of Growth and Development Summits to various District Municipalities
- Strategic planning support to Portfolio Committees on Local Government & Traditional Affairs as well as Agriculture

eastern cape aids council support programme



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aids council*


ECSECC provides secretariat and technical support to the Eastern Cape AIDS Council to improve the co-ordination of the HIV and AIDS programme in the Province, for maximum impact. In June 2003 ECSECC was tasked to establish the Eastern Cape AIDS Council, ensure that plans were developed and funded and set up a fully fledged secretariat. AIDS councils now operate at provincial level, in all District and Metropolitan Municipalities and in about two thirds of all Local Municipalities.

The AIDS Council is the main policy and advisory body on HIV and AIDS in the Province. Programme activities include:

- Conducting research, monitoring and evaluating of HIV/AIDS activities and programmes
- Mobilising and supporting stakeholders and social partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS
- Providing assistance with efficient internal and external communication and advocacy on HIV and AIDS related matters
- Co-ordinating and managing the DFID funded HIV/AIDS Multisectoral Support Framework Programme



premier's poverty alleviation fund



The Premier's Poverty Alleviation Fund aims to contribute towards poverty alleviation by assisting selected partner organisations to implement innovative projects that focus on, HIV and AIDS, food security and nutrition, human rights issues and entrepreneurship and cooperatives support. Partner organisations selected by the Office of the Premier, for funding are, Eastern Cape NGO Coalition, Eastern Cape Provincial Council of Churches, Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders, and Woman Support Centres.

ECSECC's responsibilities include;

- Providing strategic planning support to partner organisations
- Capacitating partner organisations to manage development initiatives, ensure alignment with PGDP objectives and establish systems that will enable them to access resources (e.g. donor funding) from other support institutions.

Participating organisations have been capacitated to establish systems that enable effective implementation and management of development projects. This has resulted in the accessing of funds from various donors and Provincial Government (e.g. Department of Social Development, Agriculture, Womenkind (UK), Foundation for Human Rights, etc).

the future

The Eastern Cape spans two contrasting worlds, one of modern growing industry and one of severe underdevelopment. The challenge lies in bridging the divide and bringing these two sides of the economy closer together. The foundation of that bridge has been laid and ECSECC has developed strategies to accelerate the pace of socio-economic transformation underway in the Eastern Cape Province.

The implementation of these strategies, including new and exciting interventions such as the European Union-supported LED programme, will make a substantive and qualitative impact on the implementation of the PGDP. Stakeholder representation on the ECSECC Board of Directors has been strengthened and corporate governance and performance management systems and practices in the organisation have been fine-tuned for the delivery of all our objectives.

ECSECC continues, with determined effort, to pursue and forge partnerships with both national and local spheres of Government as well as public entities, donors and the private sector.



the provincial growth and development plan

The strategic objectives of the PGDP are to eradicate poverty, stimulate growth, build infrastructure, create jobs, develop agriculture and transform government. The following targets for growth and development in the Eastern Cape for the period 2004 - 2014 have been developed:

- To maintain an economic growth rate of between 5% and 8% per annum
 - To halve the unemployment rate by 2014
 - To reduce by between 60% and 80% the number of households living below the poverty line by 2014
 - To reduce by between 60% and 80% the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2014
- To establish food self-sufficiency in the Province by 2014
- To ensure universal primary education (UPE) by 2014, with all children proceeding to the first exit point in a secondary education
- To improve the literacy rate in the Province by 50% by 2014
- To eliminate gender disparity in education and employment by 2014
- To reduce by two-thirds the under-five mortality rate by 2014
- To reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality rate by 2014
- To halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2014
- To halt and begin to reverse the spread of tuberculosis by 2014
- To provide clean water to all in the Province by 2014
- To eliminate sanitation problems by 2014



The ECSECC Board of Directors is drawn from leadership of strategic development stakeholders in the Province, including Provincial Government, organised labour, organised business, the non-governmental sector, higher education institutions, and the South African Local Government Association.

Members of the Board of Directors include:

MEC T Mhlahlo (Chairperson), Dr S Muthwa, Cnr Z Capa, Ms B Dolley, Ms M Kusambiza, Dr M Tom, Mr I Jim, Dr S Matoti, Mr S Sizani, Mr X Pakati, Mr C Magwangqana, Mr T Nodada, and Mr A Murray (Executive)



Ikamva eliqaqambileyo!



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