

ICAT South Africa Awareness Webinars and Provincial Capacity Building

2024

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ICAT South Africa

**Institutional strengthening support to South Africa on the
Institutionalization of the Climate Change Mitigation System tools to
support the implementation of its NDC.**

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Awareness Webinars and Provincial Capacity Building

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1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The Climate Change Act in South Africa has been introduced by the government as a crucial step towards a unified national response to climate change and a fair transition to a low-carbon economy. This Act includes the establishment of emission reduction targets for different sectors and sub-sectors, as well as the allocation of carbon budgets to companies engaged in specified activities that meet emission requirements. The involvement of provincial governments is highlighted in the Act to help in setting these targets to support the country in reaching the objectives outlined in the recently updated NDC. South Africa's monitoring and evaluation system focuses on collecting data from local governments and other stakeholders to contribute to the national system. However, there are limitations in capacity at the local level.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) received support from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) with the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) supporting the implementation and training of provincial officials. The South African ICAT project seeks to provide training to technical experts from all provinces. Part of this training included providing capacity building on developing and reporting of provincial and local emission targets as per the national sectoral guidelines.

ICAT South Africa ran two awareness webinars and capacity-building initiatives to support climate action within provinces. The webinars, organized from July to August, focused on Strengthening Provincial Capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation of Sectoral Emissions Targets, fostering awareness and understanding of South Africa's Climate Change Mitigation Policies. The focused capacity-building phase for selected provinces, to enhance provincial sectoral target setting, is crucial for South Africa's national climate strategy.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINARS

The specific objectives of the webinars were to:

1. Enhance Awareness and Understanding of South Africa's Climate Change Mitigation Policies.
2. Strengthen Provincial Capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation of Sectoral Emissions Targets.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The target audience for the training were representatives of relevant government sectors, focusing on provincial level. The invitation for the webinars was also extended to some attendees from local or municipal government who requested to be part of the training going forward. The detailed registers have been attached as Annexure 1.

4. AWARENESS WEBINARS WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

4.1. Webinar 1: Climate Change Bill and Role of Provinces (31 July 2024)

4.1.1. OPENING SESSION

The workshop was opened at 10 am by Brett Cohan (Energy/IPPU/Waste expert), who led the proceedings of the engagement. The meeting began with introductions from the main speakers. Samuel Mabena from the DFFE started presenting on the Climate Change Act 22 of 2024 and the role of provinces and municipalities. The presentations from the DFFE were in two parts. Firstly, the presentation explained the provisions of the Climate Change Act and where the provinces fall in. The presentation included the Climate Change Act Clause overview where Mr Mabena noted that clause 02(7)1(a) is very important, which states that provinces **must review and if necessary, revise, amend, coordinate and harmonize their policies, laws, measures, programmes and decisions** in order to— (a) ensure that the risks of climate change impacts and associated vulnerabilities are taken into consideration. Figure 1 is a schematic presentation of the clauses and illustrates how to go about implementing the migration targets as set out in the Act.

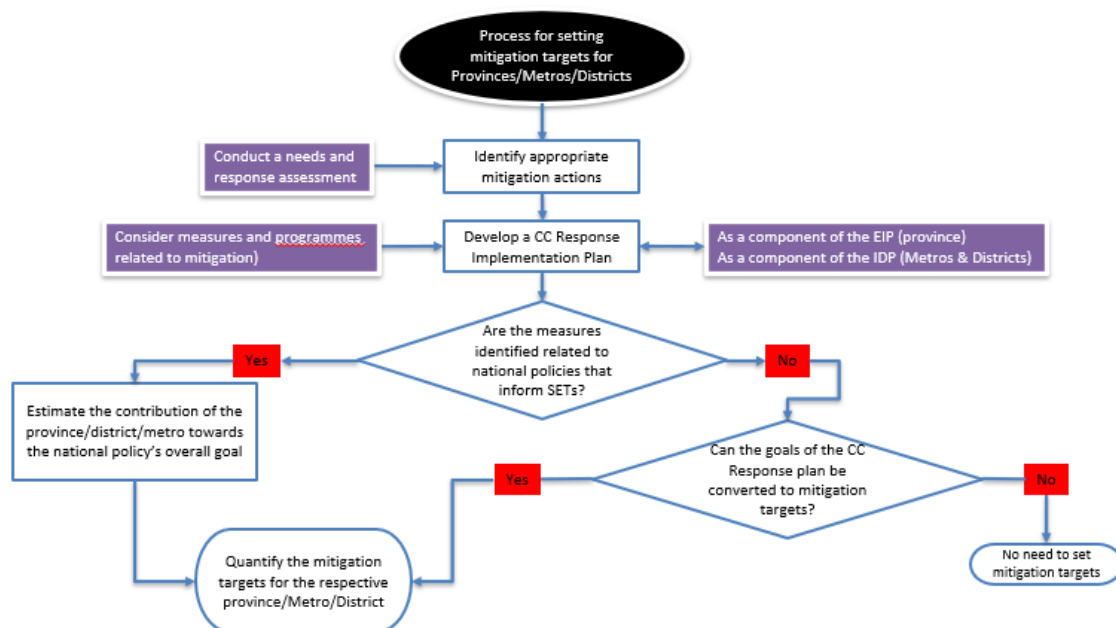


Figure 1: Process for setting mitigation targets for Provinces/Metros/Districts.

Samuel Mabena noted to the attendees that the DFFE along with GESI are currently conducting a support programme to ensure that provinces fulfil the new mandate under the act (Table 1).

Table 1: DFFE Support Programme

Item	Type of support
Emission target setting	A guideline to support Provinces/Metros/Districts to establish provincial and local emission targets
GHG Inventory Compilation	Training on how to compile GHG emission inventories
Initiative for Climate Action and Transparency (ICAT) Climate Action Aggregation Tool (CAAT)	Use the CAAT to identify, quantify and aggregate the impact of non-state and subnational actions. As a result, they can be integrated into mitigation targets, projections and scenarios in support of policy development, policy evaluation and target-setting
CC needs and response assessment Climate Change response implementation plan guidelines	ToRs developed by DFFE and currently looking for funding for the project

The second portion of Samuel Mabena's presentation centred on the implementation plan and requirements of the Climate Change Act as outlined by the DFFE. He then presented the implementation plan for the Climate Change Act 22 of 2024, emphasizing that the document is still under development and that feedback is encouraged to enhance it.

Luanne Stevens presented on the finding of provincial readiness. The information was gathered through questionnaires and reviews. The participants were invited to give suggestions to correct the information where necessary. Luanne Stevens presentation included key findings on the provinces, looking at how far they are in terms of the GHG inventory development, emission reduction targets, Selection and development of actions to reduce emissions, Climate change response plans, Climate related policies and Tracking progress. A summary of the results presented by Luanne Stevens are shown below (Table 2).

Table 2: Summary of provincial progress under the Climate Change Act

Provinces	GHG Inventory	Targets	Identified actions	Developed response strategy	Monitor and track progress
Eastern Cape	No	Yes	Yes	Need update	No
Free State	Need update	No	No	Yes	No
Gauteng	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

KwaZulu Natal	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Limpopo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mpumalanga	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern Cape	Need update	No	No	Under development	No
North West	Yes	No	No	Under development	No
Western Cape	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Update M&E to track actions

4.1.2. Q&A and DISCUSSIONS

Brett Cohen led the discussions for the webinar:

Samuel Mabena's presentation discussion:

Q: There was a question on whether the DFFE would conduct roadshows in the provinces to inform them about the specific requirements for each province going forward.

A: Mr. Mabena mentioned that roadshows will be conducted to ensure full participation and inclusion in the complete implementation of the Act.

Q: Do the guidelines take into consideration the lack or difference in capacity within the different spheres of the government and what do the time frames mean in the clause?

A: All spheres of the government will at some point require capacity support to implement clauses of the act. There will be reflections conducted to determine capacity and constraints within the departments. This includes continued consideration and working together to identify areas of needs to address issues. In terms of reviewing policies, this differs according to the policy but now including aspects of climate change.

Q: Suggestion to include the Act into the EIA process/guidelines. Will the national sector assist in setting up the emission targets and provinces provide support?

A: The SETs are only available or applicable to sector departments and not provincial or local level. The provincial and local targets are being finalised in the Act.

Luanne Stevens presentation discussion:

Q: How do we get a uniform country response, will there be national standards developed, in

terms of data monitoring standards?

A: Provinces are using different protocols as there is currently no standard in place because the provinces use tools, they most feel comfortable with.

Q: There is developing interest from the local government when it comes to the Climate Act. How do provinces know the schedule and what kind of reporting can be expected from provinces so they can start putting the information in place.

A: At the time of the workshop it was not clear at what frequency reporting will be required but communication will be sent out to the provinces.

The provinces highlighted that, in addition to funding challenges, there is a significant capacity gap that must be addressed based on the specific needs of each province.

4.1.3. CLOSING

The participants had a chance for a Q&A at the end of the session. Brett Cohen thanked the participants and encouraged them to have a look at the webinar recordings which have been uploaded on the Gondwana YouTube page. The workshop was closed after a short discourse with a reminder of webinar 2 which will take place second week of August 2024.

4.2. Webinar 2: Climate Change Funding Options and Mitigation Target Setting (14th Aug 2024)

4.2.1. OPENING SESSION

The second webinar was led by Luanne Stevens. She introduced the webinar, noting it is the second in a series. She explained the webinar will be recorded and shared on the Gondwana YouTube channel, and request participants fill out the registration form to enable reporting back to funders.

Sibusiso Nxumalo from the DFFE presented on opportunities for provinces and municipalities to access climate finance, including international and domestic funding sources. He emphasizes the importance of tracking and reporting climate finance flows. The following finance workstreams in South Africa were noted, led by the national treasury:

➤ **National Treasury**

- Climate Budget Tagging
- Green Finance Taxonomy
- Sustainable Finance
- Climate Finance Strategy.

➤ **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- Climate Finance Tracking Framework.
- Local Government Support Programme – assist local governments with climate finance proposal development.

➤ **Presidential Climate Commission:**

- Climate Finance Landscape Studies
- Just Transition Financing Mechanism

➤ **Presidency:**

- Project Management Unit: JET IP (US\$ 8.5b).

Sibusiso Nxumalo gave an overview of climate finance providers in South Africa where provinces can possibly apply for funding (Figure 2).

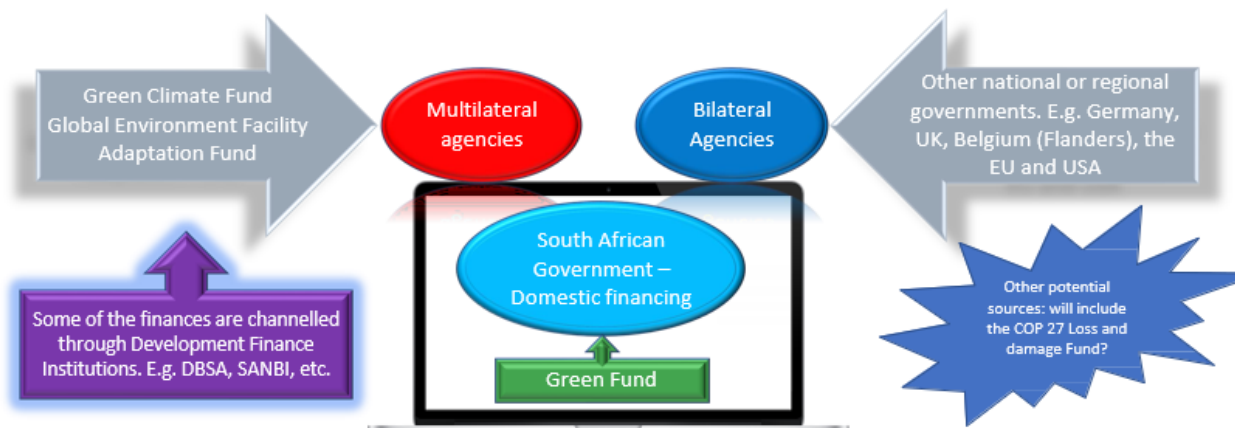


Figure 2: Climate finance providers in South Africa

In his presentation, Sibusiso Nxumalo noted that South Africa is endeavouring to manage climate change-related risks. In particular, the National Treasury recognises the risk climate change poses to fiscal, financial and economic stability and the need to integrate such risks into fiscal and economic policy modelling. Providing support, the integration of climate risks into macro-fiscal planning and infrastructure investment by appropriately reflect climate risks and vulnerabilities to efficiently allocate resources and effective response to extreme events.

The South African intergovernmental system presents characteristics of fiscal decentralisation (assignment and distribution of expenditure responsibilities across the three spheres of government, different budget formats) which means that:

- climate expenditures could not be achieved through discrete analytical exercises without CBT-type information.

- periodic, parallel analytical exercises may enable reporting against policies, strategies and plans, but would be less effective in influencing budgets.

Some of the existing climate finance opportunities for municipalities were noted on the presentation with their links which will be shared with the participants.

4.2.2. Q&A and Discussion

Q: Clarity on development of climate proposals and how can municipalities get assistance.

Q: Are the funds accessible? Clear awareness is needed before applying for funds.

A: In the new initiative the DFFE with SALGA aims to capacitate provinces on funding opportunities and the climate tracking framework to guide climate reporting.

Q: Is there any way that a collaboration space can be created so there can be a standardisation of information?

A: More coordination is needed between the provinces and national to reports on the needs so that whenever there is an identified problem, it can be solved as collaboratively as possible.

Samuel Mabena then presented on the Sectoral Emission Targets and Emission Target Guidelines. The presentation started by explaining climate change response within the municipalities as per the Climate Change Act 22 of 2019. He highlighted the following, as per Table 3.

Table 3: Climate change response: provinces and municipalities

CC ACT Section	What needs to be done	Considerations
15(1)(a)	Undertake a climate change needs and response assessment for the province, metropolitan or district municipality, as the case may be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within one year of the publication of the National Adaptation Plan • Advise to also address mitigation aspects
15(1)(d)	Develop, implement and publish in the Gazette a climate change response implementation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within two years of undertaking a CC needs and response assessment
15 (3) (a)	Climate changes response implementain plan must include measures or programmes relating to both adaptation and mitigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with constitutional mandate of the province, or the metropolitan or district municipality
15(4)	A provincial climate change response implementation plan , contemplated in subsection (1)(d), must form a component of the province's environmental implementation plan developed in terms of section 11(1) of the National Environmental Management Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the measures or programmes that are relevant for the mitigation aspect of the climate change response implementation plan might be related to national policies (e.g. National Waste Management Strategy) that used to determine SETs. This should be easy to identify in the Province's EIP or the Metro/District's IDP.
15(5)	A metropolitan or district municipal climate change response implementation plan , contemplated in subsection (1)(d), must form a component of the relevant municipality's integrated development plan adopted in terms of section 25 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some measures will only be linked to the EIP/IDPs • This is an important consideration for target setting for Provinces/Metro's and Districts (See next slide).

Samuel Mabena mentioned efforts by the DFFE to ensure that provinces receive capacity. This is to assist in developing targets, He also mentioned that the DFFE is developing guidelines to assist in this regard. Table 1 shows the DFFE support programme for the provinces and municipalities. Samuel Mabena mentioned that the DFFE plans to approach partners for funding to continue assisting. He also presented the draft document for the guidelines for the development of emission targets for provinces and local governments.

4.2.3. WAY FORWARD

Luanne Stevens shared a brief presentation on the planned activities following to the training workshop. She went on to explain that activities will be communicated in time so the participants can fully take part. Reminded participants to reach out to Luanne or Brett for any support needed, especially regarding different categories discussed during the meeting.

Emphasized the availability of support resources to assist participants in addressing questions or challenges related to the topics covered.

4.2.4. CLOSING REMARKS

Luanne Stevens thanked the tremendous efforts and contributions demonstrated by the participants during the breakout sessions. She highlighted that the success of this ICAT project largely depended on stakeholder buy-in, participation and engagement. She concluded that the contributions from the stakeholders will be compiled and will assist in informing and guiding the overall execution of the project. It was also appreciated the productive deliberations that were witnessed on both days of the workshop. She thanked the participants who continue to support and provide guidance on the work which is to be implemented by the ICAT project which will strengthen the resilience of the country and the society at large to the impending climate crisis. Lastly the participants to contact the team should they have troubles accessing the training materials. Martin van Nierop reminded the participants that the WEBINAR recordings are uploaded on the Gondwana YouTube Website and easily accessible.

5. OUTCOME OF THE WEBINARS

- South African Climate Change Act was presented, highlighting key requirements for provinces and municipalities around climate change needs assessments, response implementation plans, and alignment with existing plans like IDPs and EIPs.
- Opportunities for provinces and municipalities to access climate finance were noted, including international and domestic funding sources.

6. PROVINCIAL CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Part of the ICAT project is to support provinces on the development of sector specific indicators for monitoring and evaluating sectoral emission targets. Much of this capacity building was done through an in-person training workshop on the Provincial Target Setting Guidelines. In this training the target setting process was explained and examples for each sector were provided. Throughout the project Gondwana indicated to provinces that they were available for building capacity and that provinces needed to indicate what their capacity needs are. As indicated in the scoping report, most Provinces don't even have a GHG inventory, and this forms the basis for tracking impacts. In addition, the scoping study indicated that very few Provinces have emission reduction targets. It was therefore not unexpected that when Provinces came forward for provincial training and capacity building that their requests were focussed on the GHG inventory as opposed to target setting.

Targeted capacity activities were held with three of the Provinces, the Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng, and were based on their requests for support.

6.1. Western Cape Provincial Training

The Western Cape is relatively advanced in their understanding of inventory preparation, have completed several inventories to date. However, the energy sector has historically received the greatest focus, given substantial contribution to the Province's emissions profile. Support was requested under the project to look at the calculations on industrial process emissions (which fall under IPPU), and waste emissions, to provide an external perspective on whether their approaches were valid, and what could be done to make improvements in future. The IPPU and waste support included one online meeting to outline the challenges, a second meeting to go through the data, desktop analysis to interrogate the data and a final face-to-face meeting at their offices to present the findings.

The IPPU emissions inventory to date has included only a small number of industries, being those that report IPPU emissions directly to DFFE in line with the requirements of the National Reporting Regulations. The Province's inventory compilers also have a full list of all companies reporting energy emissions to DFFE, which they consider to provide a complete picture of industry in the Province. The Gondwana team did an analysis of this list to determine whether there were any further companies that might give rise to IPPU emissions based on the nature of the activities, beyond those already reporting. No further companies were identified, providing the Province with comfort that the IPPU inventory is already largely complete.

With respect to waste, it was found that the Province has waste composition data for a selection of metros and municipalities, but these are not always classified in the same way. As such, the Province has to reclassify into standard categories for calculation of emissions. The approach taken in this regard was interrogated, and it was found to be defensible. At present, average waste composition data is applied across locations where no actual data is available. This approach is also considered appropriate, although it was recommended to the team that waste data be improved over time.

The Western Cape is one of the few Provinces that has included the AFOLU sector in their last inventory. The inventory includes both Agriculture and Land Use changes. As this sector has many components and is often challenging to include the Western Cape Province requested that Luanne Stevens review their AFOLU inventory and indicate if they had included all the components that they could and if the calculations were done correctly. The AFOLU inventory was shared with Gondwana and a quality control assessment was done. The inventory was found to be well structured and a few points on how to improve the spreadsheets for future ease and for easy updating were highlighted. In addition, there were a few areas where the calculations were not applied correctly, and the manure management emissions were being double counted. Comments were provided in the AFOLU calculation file and then a virtual meeting was held¹ to discuss the comments and other issues relating to the updating of the AFOLU inventory. Some of the challenges were raised and thoughts on how to address these were discussed.

6.2. KwaZulu Natal Provincial Training

Prior to the start of the training, the inventory team in KwaZulu Natal had lost the key personnel responsible for inventory compilation. The Province thus requested support from Gondwana to train up individuals who have been recruited internally to assist with the inventory. A day-long face to face inventory training, conducted by Luanne Stevens and Brett Cohen, was held in Durban to this end. Participants list is shown below (Figure 3: KwaZulu Natal attendees). Prior to the training a set of spreadsheets was provided to the trainers to indicate the work that was being done by the Province for inventory compilation.

The training was structured to run through the basics of inventory compilation, working through the different sectors, sources of activity data and emissions factors. Given the small audience, it was run interactively, with participants asking questions and presenting specific challenges throughout the sessions. Feedback from the participants suggested that the training helped to fill in the gaps in knowledge, as well as build an understanding on areas of the inventory they had not yet tackled.

In addition, comments were made on their current inventory files and feedback was given in terms of how it could be improved and what additional information could be included to improve the inventory.

¹ Meeting was held with Lize Jennings and Jody Brown on the 10th October.

6.3. Gauteng Provincial Training

Gauteng Province has recently had a consultant compile their inventory, but there were a few issues where Gauteng need further inputs and clarifications. Much of this was related to the use of the GPC Methodology and the use of the associated CIRIS tool. The Gauteng inventory team identified several areas where support was required, being:

- Uncertainty and the handling thereof in the CIRIS tool
- Scope 2 emissions from energy
- Agriculture and livestock, how emissions are calculated and how uncertainty is handled
- Scope 3 emissions associated with transmission and distribution

A full day, in person meeting was run by Luanne Stevens and Brett Cohen of Gondwana with key Gauteng inventory team members to help answer their questions, and additional challenges that came up during the training. Participants list provided below (Figure 4).

Prior to the training, the Gauteng team supplied various materials which provided the trainers with an understanding of the current inventory activities. A set of training materials was developed to support the discussions, explain the key issues, and iron out any misunderstandings held by the inventory team.

In terms of the Livestock question it was more around the issue of how to include information into the CIRIS tool as opposed to the calculation of the emissions. The CIRIS tool has very few lines for input for the AFOLU sector and so a lot of information needs to be calculated outside of the tool before input is done. There was much discussion on how to reduce the complexity to incorporate it into the tool. There was also a discussion on how to balance complexity with sustainability. Often very detailed data may be obtained at one point in time and the tendency is to incorporate this detail into the inventory. This approach should be considered carefully as the inventory compiler needs to think about whether the data will be available at the same detail the next time the inventory is produced. The sustainability of the data source needs to be taken into consideration when incorporating data into an inventory.

By the end of the session the participants indicated that all their questions had been answered and issues resolved.

7. Annex 1- Training Programme

Webinar 1: Climate Change Bill and Role of Provinces (31st July 2024)

Allow time in the morning for participants to arrive.

Time	Presentation	Speaker
10:00 – 10:10	Introduction to Webinar Series	Gondwana (Brett)
10:10 – 10:30	Climate Change Bill, Implementation Plan and Role of Provinces (Mitigation)	DFFE
10:30 – 10:50	Status Quo of Provincial Climate Change Response	Gondwana
10:50 – 11:00	Q/A session	All
11:00 – 11:20	Discussion on what needs to be done by provinces (and what the support requirements are) to meet the Climate Change Bill requirements going forward	All
11:20 – 11:30	Summary and close of session 1	Gondwana

Webinar 2: Climate Change Funding Options and Mitigation Target Setting (14th Aug 2024)

Time	Presentation	Speaker
10:00 – 10:05	Introduction	Gondwana
10:05 – 10:20	Accessing Climate Change funding and support	Sibusiso Nxumalo (DFFE)
10:20 – 10:40	Sectoral Emission Targets and Emission Target Guidelines	Samuel Mabena (DFFE)
10:40 – 10:55	Tracking Provincial contribution to NDC targets	Brett Cohen (Gondwana)
10: 55 – 11:25	Q/A and discussion session	All
11:25 – 11:30	Recommendations and way forward	Gondwana

9. Annex 2: Presentations

All training presentations are stored in a SharePoint folder from Gondwana which was set up for the purpose of the project. All the provincial participants and DFFE officials have access to the presentations and training materials stored on this folder. Access to the folder can be requested and a link will be shared for the SharePoint.