

Natural Resources STRATEGY



MISSION

Occupy and expand natural resources leadership role within and outside of Agri SA

Be at the forefront of thought leadership on natural resources issues in South Africa and abroad

Advocate for sound sustainable governance of agriculture in South Africa and abroad

Mobilize members and key stakeholders to prioritize sustainable agricultural development issues

VISION

To be the acknowledged pre-eminent authority on sustainable natural resource management in agriculture in South Africa

Strategic Focus

- Policy analysis and influence
- Research and advice to members
- Participation and engagement with government, private sector and NGO sector on natural resources matters
- Thought leadership and media engagements
- Shaping public opinion on natural resources issues
- Strategic litigation and precedent setting
- Advise on natural resources matters to other CoEs

Represented in:

- NEDLAC
- BUSA
- Environmental Lawyers Association
- National Business and Biodiversity Network
- Strategic Water Partnership Network
- Various Steering and Advisory Committees

Engagement with Key Stakeholders

Stronger together

- Cement partnerships and formal working relationships with key stakeholders
- Foster and maintain relationships with key NGO's
- Develop MOUs, draw NGO's into campaigns and support them in cross-cutting campaigns

Activities

Creating a Level Playing Field

- Influence public perception through articles, radio-interviews, television appearances
- Participate in Operation Phakisa, BUSA, NEDLAC, Parliament and government forums
- Regular interaction with DWS, DEA and other stakeholders
- Regular Centre of Excellence meetings
- Monitor all policy and legislation regarding natural resources
- Advice to members

Key Focus Areas

1. Water

Water is our greatest concern

- Agri SA Water Desk
- Foster close working relationships with the DWS and other role-players in the water use governance and management sector
- Advise on water use entitlement position in South Africa (water use licenses, general authorisations, existing lawful water uses and Schedule 1 water uses)
- Participate in raw water tariff negotiations
- Participate in negotiations surrounding:
 - National Water and Sanitation Master Plan
 - National Water Resource Strategy
 - Proposed legislative amendments to National Water Act and Water Services Act

2. Natural Resources Base Management

Proactively manage natural resource base threats to agriculture

- Participate in governmental and private sector forums dealing with climate change and drought
- Participate in and facilitate alien and invasive species control, eradication and management projects
- Participate in and initiate soil erosion control, eradication and management projects
- Participate in initiatives to promote conservation agriculture and climate smart agriculture
- Engage with government and other role players on pest control measures

3. Mining and Shale Gas Development

Drawing a line in the sand - Food security first

- Appeal and Review proceedings
- Exercise continued vigilance on developments regarding regulatory approvals processes for Karoo and other shale gas exploration
- Support affected provinces and take leading role in opposing uranium mining in the Karoo and elsewhere
- Consult with Chamber of Mines on efficacy of current MOU with Agri SA
- Encourage stakeholder participation in challenging inappropriate mining developments

4. Square Kilometre Array

Representing the interests of Agriculture

- Continuing engagement with stakeholders on implementation of MOU between Agri SA and SKA
- Inform the public about SKA projects and developments
- Engage with government on future evolution of SKA
- Confirm need for telecommunication to be equitably provided
- Facilitate pro-agriculture and pro-local community upliftment projects and initiatives together with the SKA

5. Law Reform and Litigation

Creating a level playing field

- Be proactive in legislative developments and initiatives
- Participate in public consultation and commenting
- Utilise BUSA and Nedlac processes
- Appeals and possible High Court Reviews against environmental authorisation of proposed untoward mining and shale gas developments

Strengths

Specialist knowledge and expertise in agricultural, environmental, water, mining and administrative law and policy

Extensive networks including key stakeholders and government officials

High profile media presence

Ability to shape and influence topical discussion issues

Preparedness to take action

Threats

Natural Disasters including drought, hail, flooding, fire and pests

Climate Change
Competition for and Pollution of our Natural Resources

Inappropriate energy and mining projects
Regulatory and Policy Uncertainty