



Western Cape
Government



Department of Local Government
Western Cape Disaster Management Centre

**Provincial Disaster Management Centre
Annual Report 2023-24**



Department of Local Government
Western Cape Disaster Management Centre

**PROVINCIAL
DISASTER MANAGEMENT
CENTRE**

**Annual Report
2023 - 24**

Table of Contents

ACRONYMS	8
FOREWORD BY MINISTER	10
FOREWORD BY HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	12
OVERVIEW BY THE HEAD OF PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE	13
OFFICIAL SIGN-OFF	14
1 GENERAL INFORMATION.....	15
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	16
1.2 PURPOSE.....	16
1.3 LEGISLATIVE MANDATE	16
1.3.1 Constitution of South Africa 1996.....	16
1.3.2 Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002).....	16
1.3.3 Disaster Management Amendment Act, 2015 (Act 16 of 2015).....	16
1.3.4 Western Cape Disaster Management Framework 2010	17
1.3.5 Fire Brigade Services Act (Act 99 of 1987).....	17
1.3.6 Public Finance Management (Act 1 of 1999)	17
1.3.7 Local Government: Municipal Finance Management (Act 56 of 2003).....	17
1.3.8 Local Government: Municipality Systems (Act 32 of 2000)	17
1.3.9 The Intergovernmental Relations Framework (Act 13 of 2005).....	18
1.4 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW.....	18
1.4.1 Vision.....	18
1.4.2 Mission.....	18
1.4.3 Values.....	18
1.4.4 The Strategic Objectives	18
1.5 Organisational Structure.....	23
1.6 Expenditure Trends.....	24
2 INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY.....	25
2.1 Introduction.....	26
2.2 Disaster Management Policy.....	26
2.2.1 Mutual Assistance Agreement Disaster Management Policy.....	27
2.3 Stakeholder Engagements.....	27

2.3.1	Heads of Centre Forum Meetings.....	27
2.3.2	Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum Meeting.....	29
2.3.3	Coastal PDMC Forum Management Advisory	32
2.3.4	Metro, District, and Municipal Disaster Management Advisory Forums.....	32
2.4	western cape capacity building initiatives.....	33
2.4.1	Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme.....	33
2.5	International Cooperation	38
2.6	Monitoring and Evaluation.....	38
2.7	Institutional Capacity Challenges.....	39
3	DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENTS	41
3.1	Introduction.....	42
3.2	Bitou Municipality Disaster Risk Assessment.....	43
3.3	Development and Maintenance of the Spatial Data Repository	44
3.3.1	Institutional arrangements and GIS support	45
3.4	Risk Assessment Challenges and Opportunities.....	46
4	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION.....	47
4.1	Introduction.....	48
4.1.1	Early Warning Systems	48
4.1.2	Impact-Based Weather Warning Scale.....	48
4.2	Impact-Based Severe Weather Early Warning Dissemination.....	49
4.3	Mitigation Intervention Strategies.....	49
4.3.1	Hazard Awareness Programme.....	49
4.3.2	Commemoration of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	51
4.3.3	Support for municipalities	51
4.4	Disaster Management Research Programme	51
4.5	Development of Disaster Risk Reduction Plans for municipalities	51
4.6	Disaster Management and IDP in the Western Cape.....	53
4.7	Preparedness and Response.....	53
4.7.1	Disaster Management Plans.....	53
5	DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY	55
5.1	Introduction.....	56
5.2	Disaster Response.....	56
5.1.1	Other response.....	59

5.2	Stakeholder Exercises.....	60
5.2.1	Koeberg Nuclear Power Station (KNPS) Exercises.....	60
5.2.2	Western Cape Electricity Disruption Planning Exercise.....	61
5.3	Disaster Response Planning Committees	61
5.3.1	Readiness of WC:PDMC.....	61
5.3.2	Standard Operating Procedures.....	62
5.3.3	Disaster Management Information system.....	62
5.4	Assistance to Municipal Disaster Management Centres.....	63
5.5	Centre activities	63
5.6	Disaster Response Challenges	66
5.7	Disaster Recovery.....	66
5.7.1	Damage Assessments	66
5.7.2	Summarised Funding Requirement: Floods of 2023.....	68
5.7.3	Disaster Classifications and Declarations	71
5.7.4	Monitoring of funded projects	71
5.7.5	Post Disaster Debriefings.....	75
5.7.6	Disaster Recovery Challenges.....	76
5.7.7	Disaster Recovery Successes.....	77
6	FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES	79
6.1	Provincial Fire and Rescue Services Capacity.....	80
6.2	Fire Rescue Services Forums.....	80
6.3	Memorandum of Agreement: Fire Rescue Services.....	81
6.4	International Firefighters Day.....	81
6.5	Western Cape Veld Fire Strategy Objectives	83
6.6	Training.....	84
6.7	Integrated Fire Management Project	85
6.8	Fire Response	85
6.9	FIRE SERVICE CAPACITY BUILDING	87
6.9.1	Smoke Alarm Campaign	88
7.	CONCLUSION	89

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Mr AW Bredell: Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.....	10
Figure 2: Mr G Pause: Head of Department: Local Government.....	12
Figure 3: Mr C Deiner: Head: Provincial Disaster Management Centre.....	13
Figure 4: Organisational Structure.....	23
Figure 5: Western Cape Disaster Management Framework: Review process.....	26
Figure 6: Head of Centre Forum Meeting: Annual Topics.....	28
Figure 7: HOC forum Meeting.....	29
Figure 8: A fond farewell was bid to Ms Ronelle Pieters, Assistant Director: Disaster Recovery, who went on early retirement.....	29
Figure 9: PDMAF Meeting Topics.....	30
Figure 10: PDMAF: Mr Caesar Sauls was bid a fond farewell after retiring on 31 October 2023.....	31
Figure 11: PDMAF Members.....	31
Figure 12: PDMAF Members.....	31
Figure 13: Coastal PDMC Forum: Annual Topics.....	32
Figure 14: Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme Project Timeline.....	34
Figure 15: Mr Sizwe Nxayeka.....	34
Figure 16: Bryland Lubbe.....	34
Figure 17: Ms Azole Mfana.....	35
Figure 18: Mr Diswayne Maarman.....	35
Figure 19: Ms Vuyo Bavuman.....	36
Figure 20: Disaster Management Orientation Programme.....	37
Figure 21: Consul General.....	39
Figure 22: Risk Assessment Methodology Workshop: Stakeholder Engagement.....	42
Figure 23: Bitou Municipality Risk Assessment Pilot Workshop.....	43
Figure 24: Western Cape Risk Assessment Status.....	44
Figure 25: Disaster Management Decision Support Tool Preview.....	45
Figure 26: Impact-Based Weather Warning Scale.....	48
Figure 27: Disaster Awareness Campaign in Bitou and Knysna Municipalities.....	50
Figure 28: The High School Debating Competition.....	50
Figure 29: Commemoration of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.....	50
Figure 30: Workshops to Develop a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan for George Municipality.....	52
Figure 31: Workshops to Develop a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan for George Municipality.....	52
Figure 32: Utilisation of the Working on Fire Helicopter.....	56

Figure 33: Utilisation of the Working on Fire Helicopter	57
Figure 34: Franschhoek Pass	57
Figure 35: Botrivier N2	57
Figure 36: Provincial Technical Communication Exercise held on 1 March 2024	58
Figure 37: Repairing the Pylon.....	59
Figure 38: Provision of Relief.....	59
Figure 39: The UNHCR and SAMCO workshop	59
Figure 40: Demonstration by Drizit Environmental Oil and Chemical Pollution Control.....	60
Figure 41: Spill Tech Hazardous Waste Management showcasing their equipment.....	60
Figure 42: Koeberg Station Mass Care Centre Thematic Exercise on 3 August 2023.....	60
Figure 43: WC:PDMC: Black-out Exercise.....	61
Figure 44: Fine Chemicals Corporation emergency exercise, Epping	61
Figure 45: EThekweni Disaster Management Centre.....	62
Figure 46: KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Provincial Management Centre.....	62
Figure 47: Central Karoo UNITI training - 26-29 February 2024.....	63
Figure 48: Overview of the Disaster Management Centre to the Voortrekker Youth Development group on 18 August 2023	63
Figure 49: Gauteng Disaster Management benchmarking visit for Information and Communications Systems in Western Cape Province on 1 September 2023	63
Figure 50: National Council of Provinces: 13 September 2023.....	64
Figure 51: Mr Martin Meyer: KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature - September 2023	64
Figure 52: Cape Town Sanlam Marathon - 15 October 023	64
Figure 53: The newly appointed Consul Generals meets Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre on 20 November 2023.....	64
Figure 54: New Consul Generals: 20 November 2023	64
Figure 55: Heal our Land ICS training and exercise	65
Figure 56: Heal Our Land: ICS training and exercise - 8-10 February 2024.....	65
Figure 57: Cape Town Cycle Tour: March 10, 2024.....	65
Figure 58: Overberg District Municipality Damage.....	66
Figure 59: Cederberg Municipality Damage	67
Figure 60: Agricultural Damages.....	67
Figure 61: Agricultural Damages.....	67
Figure 62: Road Damages.....	67
Figure 63: Launch of the Oudtshoorn Blossoms Water Supply Project	72
Figure 64: Drought Allocation.....	73

Figure 65: Engagement with Emerging Farmers: Hoekskuil, Beaufort West and veld condition of farm: Gansevlei, Barrydale.....	74
Figure 66: Engagement with Emerging Farmers: Hoekskuil, Beaufort West and Veld condition of farm: Gansevlei, Barrydale.....	74
Figure 67: Meeting with Commonage Farmers in Van Rhynsdorp, West Coast District Municipality	75
Figure 68: Damaged and Repaired Zwelethemba Bridge, Breede Valley Municipality.....	76
Figure 69: COVID-19 Debriefing: Summary Finding.....	77
Figure 70: Chief Fire Officers Committee	81
Figure 71: Wildfire Pre-Attack Plan.....	82
Figure 72: Planning Section Chief Training	84
Figure 73: Opening of Fire Readiness Event	85

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Strategic Objectives	18
Table 2: Strategic Performance Indicators: Outcomes, Outputs Performance Indicators, Targets and Actual Achievements.....	21
Table 3: Performance about Standardised Outputs and Output Indicators for Sectors with Concurrent Functions	22
Table 4: Summary of the Implementation of the DM Act in the Cape Town Metro and District Municipalities.....	38
Table 5: Disaster Management Plans: Updated/Developed.....	53
Table 6: Cost of damages resulting from May and June 2023 Floods.....	69
Table 7: Cost of damages resulting from 24-25 September 2023 storm surges.....	70
Table 8: Cost of damages resulting from 16-17 September 2023 floods.....	70
Table 9: Breakdown of Disaster Relief Grant allocated to the Municipalities within the Province during the Financial Year 2021-2022	71
Table 10: Breakdown of Disaster Relief Grants allocated to the Sector Departments within the province during the Financial Year 2021-2022	72
Table 11: Fire Services Forums	80
Table 12: MOUs and Agreements Between WC:PDMC, and Municipalities.....	82
Table 13: Service Level Agreements.....	82
Table 14: Western Cape Veld Fire Strategy Objectives.....	83
Table 15: Fire Training Statistics.....	84
Table 16: Aerial Budget Expenditure per District for 2023/24	86
Table 17: Fire Service Capacity Building.....	87
Table 18: Municipalities allocated Municipal Service Delivery Grants for Procurement of Smoke Alarms 2023/24.....	88

ACRONYMS

APP	Annual Performance Plan
BM	Bitou Municipality
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative
CALFIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
DMA	Disaster Management Act
DMIC	Disaster Management Information and Communication
DOT	Department of Transport
DOTP	Department of the Premier
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DST	Decision Support Tool
DRA	Disaster Risk Assessment
FBA	Fire Brigade Act
FBS	Fire Brigade Services
FCP	Forward Control Point
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRDM	Garden Route District Municipality
HOC	Head of Centre
ICS	Incident Command System
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
JOC	Joint Operations Centre
KNPS	Koeberg Nuclear Power Station
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
MDRG	Municipal Disaster Relief Grant
MOA	Memorandum of Understanding
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NICD	National Institute for Communicable Diseases
NNR	National Nuclear Regulator
OPRC	Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
PDMAF	Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum

PDMC	Provincial Disaster Management Centre
PWG	Provincial Working Group
RIMS	Road Incident Management Committee Meetings
SAMCO	South African Multi-Country Office
SANCCOB	South African Foundation for Conservation of Coastal Birds
SANTACO	South African National Taxi Council
SAPS	South African Police Services
SAWS	South African Weather Services
SDR	Spatial Data Repository
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
WCDLG	Western Cape Department of Local Government
WCDoA	Western Cape Department of Agriculture
WC:PDMC	Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre
WCSRAM	Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology
WOF	Working on Fire
UNHCR	United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees

FOREWORD BY MINISTER

It is with great honour that I present the Department of Local Government's Western Cape Disaster Management Centre's activities in the Annual Report.

The Western Cape has seen a significant increase in the severity and frequency of disaster incidents in the past few years. During the reporting year, the province was exposed to severe weather events in June 2023 and September 2023 and a significant increase in fires during the fire season.

I am proud of the department's coordination role in ensuring our public safety, the environment, and infrastructure. This requires a shift in how we reduce, mitigate, and prepare for disaster strategically. In a challenging fiscal climate, it is crucial to form partnerships with NGOs and the private sector to drive our initiatives in municipalities.

Exacerbated by the far-reaching impacts of climate change, disaster incidents pose a significant threat to our economy, agriculture sector, infrastructure, and communities. Our disaster management strategy is underpinned by a proactive risk reduction approach, with all stakeholders and civil society playing a crucial role in this collective effort.

Our risk reduction measures are only as effective as the information they are based on. The Department's updated Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology, a significant milestone, is designed to provide local municipalities with the credible information they need to conduct independent risk assessments. This focus on risk reduction as an output of each evaluation is a key component of our disaster management strategy.

The new methodology contains templates for conducting risk assessments to improve usability and ensure standardisation across the province. The Department conducted handover workshops for the updated methodology in the Central Karoo, Garden Route, Overberg, and Cape Winelands District Municipalities in August 2023 and the City



Figure 1: Mr AW Bredell: Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

of Cape Town in October 2023. Bitou Municipality and Bergrivier Local Municipality were identified as suitable candidate municipalities for piloting the usability of the updated methodology. This innovative approach aims to reduce the financial burden on municipalities and decrease their dependency on service providers by conducting risk assessments in-house, providing credible risk identification data to inform risk reduction.

The Western Cape experiences a high number of wildfires or veldfires each year. These can be attributed to human activities—social unrest, malicious ignitions, negligence, and nature itself, such as thunderstorms, climate change, and vegetation (type and load). Every year, the Western Cape Government, District, and Local Municipalities improve their capacity and skills to effectively prevent and combat these wildfires, thereby preventing and/or limiting the loss of human lives, infrastructure, and environmental damage.

As part of the quest to keep improving and enhancing our capacity and skills, the need to plan for high-risk areas - urban interface, high fuel load, and type of vegetation - focused on the safety of firefighting personnel and the community and to increase the probability of success. This project is based on techniques used by international counterparts such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("CalFire"). After assessing both areas, it was unanimously decided that Algeria and Wuppertal be selected for a fire risk assessment pre-attack plan due to the high fire risk. The main objective of the Fire Plan is to prepare for an out-of-control wildfire in the defined area. The Department is also developing a fire risk assessment pre-attack plan for all the airstrips in the Western Cape.

The provincial fire services support municipalities in establishing and maintaining functional and compliant Fire Services that can be measured against national benchmarks and standards. They also coordinate and support local, provincial, and national governments to prevent or reduce the risk of specialised disasters or fire incidents and ensure rapid and effective response to potential disasters and post-disaster recovery. The Department invested R11.74 million in fire services capacity-building projects across the Province. Prompt fire response has proven to reduce fatalities and damages, protecting life, infrastructure, and the environment.

The department supports municipalities through its Aerial Fire Fighting and Ground Support Programmes and has invested R14 million. The Western Cape Government has recognised that a strategic shift is required to manage fire prevention interventions proactively to meet society's immediate and longer-term needs, preserve a healthy environment, and protect lives and property.

Research and international experience indicate that the destruction of the environment, homes, property, and lives due to fire can be prevented in frequency and loss of life. Still, the incidence of fires within informal settlements is at an unacceptably high level. The Department collaborated with various partners to develop a strategy to prevent

fire-related injuries and deaths in the Western Cape. In this context, and specific to the requirements of household warning systems, the Provincial Disaster Management Fire Rescue Services initiated an innovative smoke alarm installation programme for High Fire Risk Communities. This project was launched on 18 October 2016 and it is still running. Based on the data collected, the Overstrand, Saldanha, Drakenstein, Langeberg, and Swartland local municipalities and the Garden Route District municipalities each received R500 000.00 towards purchasing smoke alarms, amounting to R3 million investment.

Recovering from disaster events has become a financial burden on municipalities and sector departments, exacerbated by their frequency and severity and tight fiscal environments. Through the department's facilitation, the province was allocated approximately R402 million across 14 municipalities for response and recovery grants from the National Disaster Management Centre. This aims to augment response and recovery projects and build a resilient province. We thank the National Department for their support and continue assisting with oversight and monitoring project completion.

I thank our partners for their support and look forward to exploring new approaches to building resilience and benefiting our communities and economy. Together, we can mitigate the impact of disasters and create a safer, more sustainable future.

Thank you



MR AW BREDELL

**MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

FOREWORD BY HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

I am filled with pride, reflecting on the remarkable work of my department during the 2023-24 reporting years. Our tireless efforts have strengthened municipalities' capacity to manage their affairs, promoted good governance, and enhanced municipal service delivery.

Effective disaster management relies on sound partnerships, a top priority for our department. We have fostered cross-functional and multi-stakeholder engagement through regular forum meetings, including the Heads of Centre Forum, Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum, and Coastal PDMC Forum. These meetings have facilitated discussion of risk reduction and monitoring, disaster events reflection, and capacity building.

Supporting municipalities is at the core of our department's function, and building a risk-reduction culture is fundamental to resilience. We have worked closely with municipalities to develop risk reduction plans, which have been included in the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), ensuring development goals are achieved while minimising potential risks. Our department has evaluated the Disaster Management Chapter in the IDP annually, providing guidelines to assist municipalities in drafting their chapters. We have successfully completed this project with George Municipality and Stellenbosch Municipality. In addition to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response activities, our department has built municipalities' capacity to manage their affairs through various programs. We have supported George and Stellenbosch municipalities in developing a disaster risk reduction plan, which involved a collaborative effort to assess existing measures and integrate prevention and mitigation strategies into development plans.

To address the limited human capacity for disaster management at the local municipality level, we initiated an annual disaster management graduate internship program. This program provides young individuals with industry experience, income, and job market entry, aligning with the provincial goal



Figure 2: Mr G Paulse: Head of Department: Local Government.

of job creation. Four interns were appointed in 2023-24, and three have already been offered extended contracts within municipalities.

Our provincial fire services have focused on specialised training courses, investing R2.2 million to enhance Fire and Life Safety, Emergency, and Special Capacity capabilities. We have also supported local municipalities with awareness materials to raise awareness about fires and flooding in their communities.

In conclusion, I am proud of our department's achievements in strengthening municipalities, promoting good governance, and building resilience. We remain committed to supporting our communities and enhancing disaster management capabilities.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Paulse', written over a light blue horizontal line.

MR G PAULSE
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

OVERVIEW BY THE HEAD OF PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

I am honoured to present the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre's annual report for the 2023/24 financial year. As the Head of Centre, I am proud to highlight our team's commitment to excellence despite increased disaster incidents and limited resources.

Our proactive approach to coordinating disaster events has enabled us to effectively manage multiple incidents, building our internal and external resilience. During the reporting year, the centre was activated to respond to floods, fires, and a regional electricity blackout in the Central Karoo district, which tested our capabilities and preparedness.

We successfully responded to the June 2023 flooding event, which caused extensive damage across the province. A provincial disaster was declared, with verified damages amounting to R21.5 million. We were again activated in September 2023 to respond to severe weather impacts and storm surges, which resulted in a national disaster classification.

Flood awareness materials were developed to educate communities on flood risk reduction and resilience, including pamphlets, posters, social media content, and an activity book for school children. These materials were designed and printed to support local municipalities' awareness initiatives.

Our fire capacity initiatives successfully mitigated the impacts of unprecedented fire incidents during the peak season of November 2023 to February 2024. We utilised the Fire Station app to catalogue firefighting resources and benchmark against national codes. We also strategically placed resources to mitigate fire impacts.

Our electricity disruption plan, updated annually since 2016 to ensure its effectiveness, was tested during the regional blackout in the Central Karoo district and proved effective in managing the incident. We worked closely with our partners



Figure 3: Mr C Deiner: Head: Provincial Disaster Management Centre.

and stakeholders to ensure a swift response and minimise the impact on communities.

We have also been working to build a risk-avoidance culture among children through initiatives like the Working on Fire high school debating competition for grade 9 learners, which focused on climate change awareness. The annual Disaster Awareness Campaign was also launched for primary school learners, featuring an industrial theatre play on flood and fire prevention and loadshedding safety.

I thank our partners and administrative and political leaders for their unwavering support throughout the year. We remain committed to enhancing disaster management capabilities and building resilient communities.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Deiner', with a small logo above it.

MR C DEINER
HEAD OF CENTRE: PROVINCIAL
DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

OFFICIAL SIGN-OFF

It is hereby certified that this Annual Report:

- Was developed by the management of the Provincial Disaster Management Centre under the guidance of the HOD: Local Government, Mr G Paulse and the Provincial Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Mr A Bredell.
- Was prepared in line with the current APP of the WCDLG and Section 36 of the Disaster Management Act 2002, as amended.



MR C DEINER

HEAD OF CENTRE: PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE



MR G PAULSE

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT



MR AW BREDELL

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides general information on the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre's (WC:PDMC) legislative mandate concerning the programme's strategic overview and basic organisational structure.

1.2 PURPOSE

The Chief Directorate: Disaster Management and Fire Rescue Services aims to promote an integrated, coordinated, and multi-disciplinary Disaster Management and Fire Rescue Service.

1.3 LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

The WC:PDMC draws its legislative mandate from the amended Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002 and the Fire Brigade Services Act 99 of 1987. Below are some of the central legislations applicable to Disaster Management.

1.3.1 Constitution of South Africa 1996

1.3.1.1 Chapter Two of the Constitution of South Africa

All spheres of government are obligated to ensure their citizens' social and economic development while preserving the ecosystem for future generations. If these rights are achieved, it will increase the livelihood of the most vulnerable, protect the environment from degradation, and stimulate economic development that will contribute to the necessary infrastructure that could reduce the risk of disasters or the impact of disasters. The WC:PDMC must promote DRR initiatives that ensure sustainable ecological development in the Western Cape while promoting economic and social development

1.3.1.2 Chapter Three of the Constitution of South Africa

This chapter involves the cooperative government function concerning intergovernmental relations. The WC:PDMC must ensure that it observes

and adheres to the principles of this chapter concerning disaster management. The WC:PDMC should conduct its activities within the parameters outlined in this chapter concerning disaster management.

1.3.1.3 Chapter Five of the Constitution of South Africa

This chapter examines the national intervention in provincial administration when a province cannot or does not fulfil an executive obligation in the Constitution or legislation. The WC:PDMC needs to ensure that support is rendered to the province where applicable to ensure delivery of the deliverables of its disaster obligations.

1.3.2 Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002)

This Act provides for an integrated and coordinated approach to disaster management, focused on rapid and effective response; recovery from disasters as well as the reduction of disaster risk; the establishment of provincial and municipal disaster management centres; and a framework under which the WC:PDMC operates and liaises with municipalities and relevant stakeholders on disaster-related matters.

1.3.3 Disaster Management Amendment Act, 2015 (Act 16 of 2015)

The Disaster Management Amendment Act seeks to, amongst others;

- Clarify the policy focus on rehabilitation and functioning of Disaster Management Centres;
- Align the functions of the Provincial and National Disaster Management Advisory Forum to accommodate the South African National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR);
- Provide for the South African National Defence Force, South African Police Service (SAPS) and any other organs of state to assist the disaster management structures; and

- Strengthen the disaster risk reporting system to improve the country's ability to manage potential disasters.

1.3.4 Western Cape Disaster Management Framework 2010

The framework is a legal instrument specified by the Act to address the need for consistency across multiple interest groups by providing a coherent, transparent, and inclusive policy on disaster management appropriate for the Western Cape.

1.3.5 Fire Brigade Services Act (Act 99 of 1987)

The Act provides for establishing, maintaining, employing, coordinating, and standardising the Fire Brigade Services (FBS) and related matters.

1.3.6 Public Finance Management (Act 1 of 1999)

- To regulate financial management in the national government and provincial governments;
- To ensure that all revenue, expenditure, assets, and liabilities of governments are managed efficiently and effectively;
- To provide for the responsibilities of persons entrusted with financial management in those governments; and
- To provide for matters related in addition to that.

1.3.7 Local Government: Municipal Finance Management (Act 56 of 2003)

- To secure sound and sustainable management of the financial affairs of municipalities and other institutions within the local sphere of government;
- To establish treasury norms and standards for the local sphere of government; and
- To provide for matters related in addition to that.

1.3.8 Local Government: Municipality Systems (Act 32 of 2000)

- To provide the core principles, mechanisms, and processes necessary to allow for progressive municipal growth towards social and economic upliftment of local communities and ensure affordable universal access to essential services for all;
- To provide for how municipal authority and functions are exercised and performed;
- To provide for community participation;
- To establish a simple and enabling framework for the core processes of planning, performance management, resource mobilisation and organisational change, which underpin the notion of developing local government;
- To provide a practical framework for the local public administration and human resource development;
- To empower the underprivileged and ensure municipalities put service tariffs and credit control policies in place while considering their required needs and provide a framework for the provision of services, service delivery agreements, and municipal service districts;
- To provide for credit control and debt collection;
- To establish a framework for support, monitoring, and standard setting across all spheres of government;
- To progressively build local government into an efficient, frontline development agency capable of seamlessly integrating all spheres of government activities with their local natural environment and for the overall social and economic upliftment of communities.
- To provide for legal matters about local government; and
- To provide for matters incidental to that.

1.3.9 The Intergovernmental Relations Framework (Act 13 of 2005)

- To facilitate the coordination between the three spheres of government through the implementation of policy and legislation;
- It is a framework Act, which allows flexibility between the three spheres of meeting challenges concerned with the conduct and practices of cooperative government; and
- It also provides for the basic architecture of intergovernmental structures and for processes to guide the settlement of intergovernmental disputes.

1.4 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

1.4.1 Vision

The vision of the WC:PDMC is to promote safer, resilient and sustainable development as per Provincial Strategic Objectives.

1.4.2 Mission

The Mission of the WC:PDMC is:

- To establish and maintain integrated systems and structures for disaster management;

- To conduct, identify and prioritise hazards and vulnerabilities in the province;
- To develop and implement Disaster Risk Reduction (prevention mitigation and preparedness) projects and programmes;
- To develop and implement effective and rapid emergency/disaster response and recovery mechanisms

1.4.3 Values

The values of the WC:PDMC, similar to the Western Cape Government, are:

- Caring;
- Competency;
- Accountability;
- Integrity;
- Responsiveness; and
- Innovation.

1.4.4 The Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objectives of the WC:PDMC, as stipulated in the WCDLGs Annual Performance Plan, is depicted in Tables 1 and 2. The National Prescribed Indicator is described in Table 3. All projects have specific project plans, with 31 March 2023 as the completion date for deliverables.

The projects are as follows

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	To coordinate effective disaster management preparedness, intergovernmental for a and recovery. To coordinate the reduction of potential risks posed by hazards. To improve the Fire and Rescue Services capability
PURPOSE	To manage disaster management at the provincial and local levels to ensure the establishment of effective and efficient disaster management mechanisms
STRATEGIC GOAL	A disaster-resilient province

Table 1: Strategic Objectives

PROGRAMME 3: DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SUB-PROGRAMME3.2: DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SERVICE

Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicators	Audited Actual Performance 2021-22	Audited Actual Performance 2022-23	Planned Annual Target 2023-24	Actual Achievement 2023-24	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement for 2023-24	Reason deviations/General comments
Safer, Resilient Communities and Sustainable Development	<p>3.2(a) Integrated systems and structures for disaster management established and maintained</p>	<p>3.2.1(a) Facilitate coordination of disaster management partnerships</p>	12	10	10	10	-	The Department facilitated various disaster management engagements with stakeholders.
		<p>3.2.2(a) Monitor & evaluate the implementation of Disaster Management</p>	5	1	1	1	-	The Department produced an Annual Disaster Management Report and distributed it to stakeholders.
		<p>3.2.3(a) Development and review of WC Disaster Management Policy Provisions</p>	2	1	1	1	-	The Western Cape Disaster Management Framework was drafted.
Safer, Resilient Communities and Sustainable Development	<p>3.2(b) Effective and rapid emergency/disaster response and recovery mechanisms</p>	<p>3.2.1(b) Support organs of state to ensure disaster readiness and response</p>	6	5	4	5	1	Organs of State were supported with various preparedness plans, such as winter, and summer readiness plans, Functionality of the Centre, Internal Debriefing Centre Activations, and Disaster Management and Communication Centre Disaster Management Information and Communication system was procured to further enhance and expand on disaster communication methods.
		<p>3.2.2(b) Coordinate disaster recovery process to enhance resilience</p>	7	3	1	4	3	<p>Recovery projects implemented were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments & Verifications • Classifications & Declarations • Funding request, & • M&E Monitoring of funds This indicator cannot be predicted as it is dependent on when the need arises.

PROGRAMME 3: DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SUB-PROGRAMME 3.2: DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SERVICE

Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicators	Audited Actual Performance 2021-22	Audited Actual Performance 2022-23	Planned Annual Target 2023-24	Actual Achievement 2023-24	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement for 2023-24	Reason deviations/General comments
Safer, Resilient communities and Sustainable Development	3.2 (c) Institutional-isation and advocacy of Disaster Risk Reduction	3.2.1(c) Number of Risk and Vulnerability Assessments conducted	3	1	1	2	1	Risk and Vulnerability Assessment was completed for Bitou Municipality to pilot Review and the update of Standard Risk Assessment Methodology. This project aims to help capacitate local municipalities to be able to conduct risk assessments independently. The City of Cape Town was also supported with the updated Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology piloted in Bitou.
		3.2.2(c) Upgrade and maintain Disaster Management Spatial Data Repository	1	1	1	1	-	The Department supported the Overberg District Municipality with a mapbook for Bitou Municipality.
		3.2.3(c) Number of municipalities supported in developing Disaster Risk Reduction measures in their IDPs.	1	5	1	2	1	George and Stellenbosch received hands-on support on Risk Reduction measures in IDPs. The implementation of the Risk Reduction and Integration into the Development Planning Guideline allowed for an additional municipality to support.
		3.2.4(c) Hazard Awareness Programme	2	1	1	1	-	The Hazard Awareness Campaign was conducted in Garden Route.

PROGRAMME 3: DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SUB-PROGRAMME 3.2: DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SERVICE

Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicators	Audited Actual Performance 2021-22	Audited Actual Performance 2022-23	Planned Annual Target 2023-24	Actual Achievement 2023-24	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement for 2023-24	Reason deviations/General comments
Safer, Resilient communities and Sustainable Development	3.2(d) Fire and Rescue Services Capability improved	3.2.1(d) Number of training programmes to improve fire & life safety in the Province	6	6	6	6	-	Training programmes such as Fundamentals of Design, Interpretation and Application, Fire Risk Assessments, Examination of Building Plan, Fire Safety Legislation and Peace Officer training were provided to municipalities.
		3.2.2(d) Number of training programmes to improve Emergency and Special Capacity and Special Capacity in the province	4	4	3	3	-	Training programmes to improve Emergency and Special Capacity in the Province were ICS Logistics, Planning Section Chief and Situational Unit Training.
		Aerial Firefighting and Ground Support Programme implemented	1	1	1	1	-	Aerial Firefighting contract extension has been approved.

Table 2: Strategic Performance Indicators: Outcomes, Outputs Performance Indicators, Targets and Actual Achievements

PROGRAMME 3: DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SUB-PROGRAMME

3.2: DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SERVICE

Output Indicators		Audited Actual Performance 2021-22	Audited Actual Performance 2022-23	Planned Annual Target 2023-24	Actual Achievement 2023-24	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement for 2023-24	Reason deviations/ General comments
SPI:13	Number of municipalities supported to maintain functional Disaster Management Centres	6	6	6	6	-	All Disaster Management Centres in the Province are functional. The Department conducts quarterly monitoring on all District Municipalities and the Metro.
SPI:14	Number of municipalities supported on Fire Brigade Services	14	6	5	11	-	The following municipalities received Fire Capacity Building Grants: Bergrivier LM, Swartland LM, West Coast District Municipality, Witzenberg LM, Drakenstein LM, Breede Valley LM, Cape Winelands District, Overberg District, Oudtshoorn LM, Garden Route District, Central Karoo District Municipality Grant allocations were amended during the budget adjustment process.

Table 3: Performance about Standardised Outputs and Output Indicators for Sectors with Concurrent Functions

1.5 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The WC:PDMC is a Chief Directorate within the WCDLG. Figure 4 displays the organisational

structure of the Chief Directorate: Disaster Management and Fire Rescue Services.

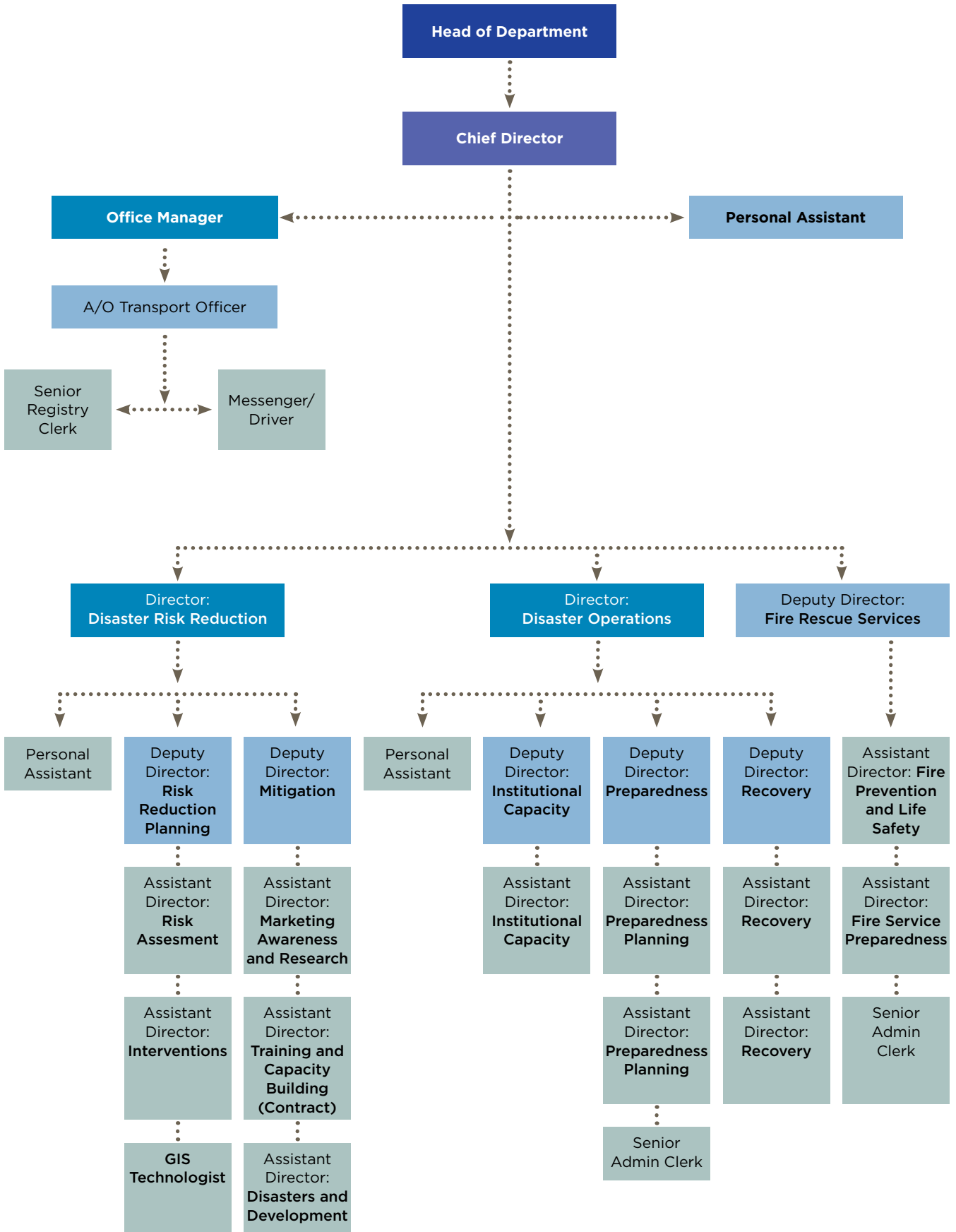


Figure 4: Organisational Structure

1.6 EXPENDITURE TRENDS

The expenditure for the WC:PDMC is reported in the Annual Financial Statements of the WCDLG. The provision of immediate relief for disasters transferred to Provincial Departments and Municipalities affected by disasters is provided through the Disaster Relief Conditional Grant funding processes. The WC:PDMC monitors these funds: as reported in Chapter 5: Disaster Response and Recovery of the Annual Report.

2

INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Integrated Institutional Capacity focuses on establishing the necessary institutional measures for implementing disaster risk management within the Western Cape. This chapter explicitly addresses applying cooperative governance principles for disaster risk management in policy formation and implementation, stakeholder engagements, capacity building, international cooperation, monitoring and evaluation activities, and challenges.

2.2 DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre has a Western Cape Disaster Management Framework, which outlines the implementation of the Act and the National Disaster Management Framework of 2005.

The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre embarked on the fifth phase of reviewing and updating the Western Cape Disaster Management Framework, considering the amendments to the Disaster Management Act 16 of 2015.

The WC:PDMC Framework underwent professional editing, graphic design and final comment to the final draft.

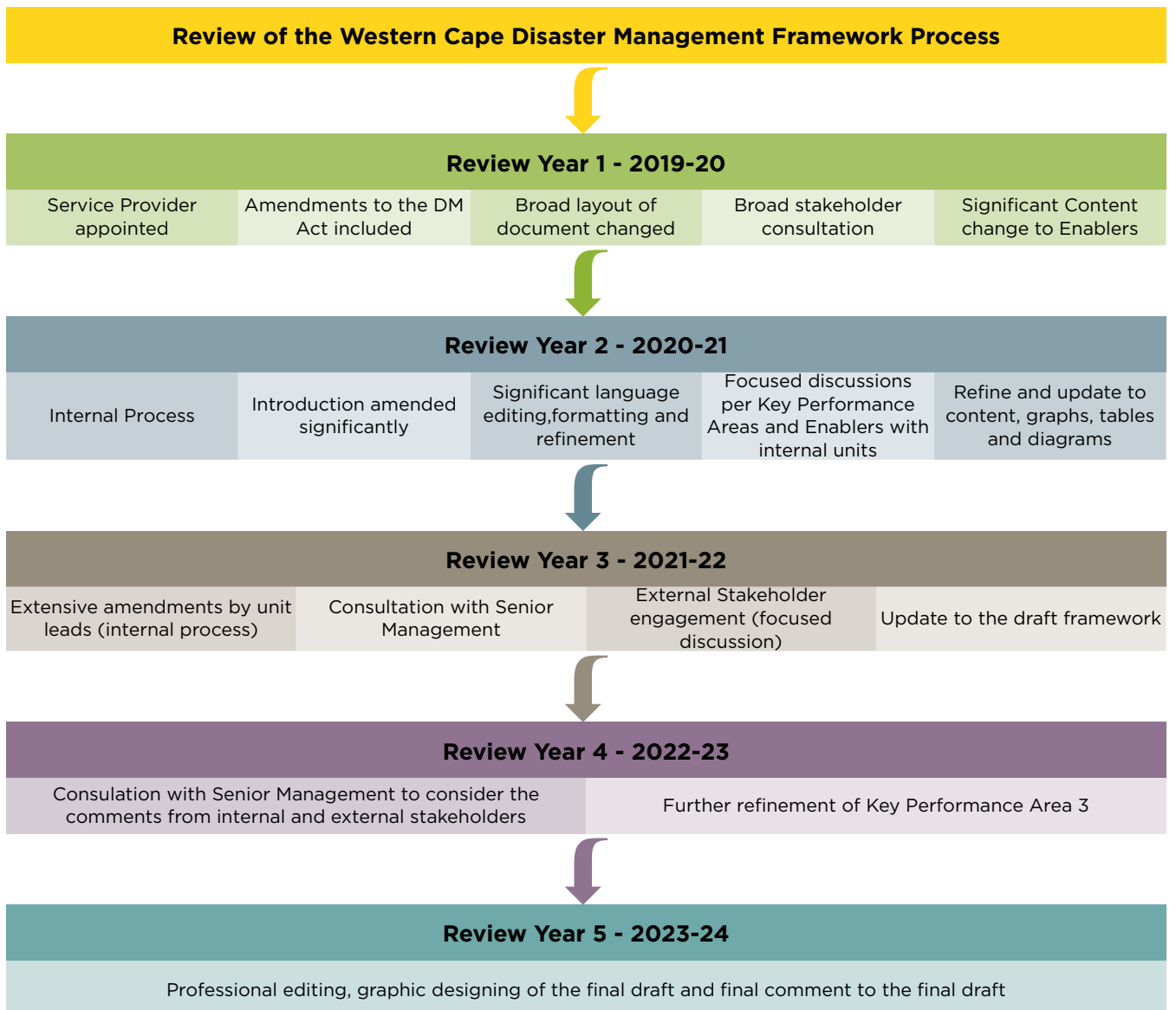


Figure 5: Western Cape Disaster Management Framework: Review process

2.2.1 Mutual Assistance Agreement Disaster Management Policy

The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre took a significant step forward by drafting a comprehensive Mutual Assistance Agreement. This crucial document aimed to enhance collaboration and cooperation among the disaster management centres in the province, all working towards a common goal: effective disaster management.

The agreement outlined several key areas of collaboration, including:

- Building integrated institutional capacity and arrangements for disaster management
- Conducting disaster risk assessments and reduction efforts
- Enhancing preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation measures
- Establishing robust information management and communication systems, including early warning protocols, and emergency communication infrastructure
- Conducting regular monitoring, and evaluation exercises
- Promoting education, training, public awareness, and research initiatives

To ensure the successful implementation of this agreement, several conditions were established. These include:

- Assistance would be provided whenever needed, despite existing duties and responsibilities
- Each party would prioritise their disaster management needs before offering support to others
- Assistance would be subject to available resources

Regarding compensation, the agreement stipulates that:

- No party would seek compensation for support rendered except as specified in the agreement
- Each party would be responsible for their employees' remuneration and compensation

- Clear conditions and costs associated with assistance would be outlined in the request
- Finally, the agreement emphasised the importance of adequate insurance coverage, with each party agreeing to maintain appropriate levels of liability and other insurance coverage.

The Mutual Assistance Agreement was sent to the parties' legal department for final review before approval.

2.3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

During the reporting period, various forum meetings took place to ensure cross-functional and multi-stakeholder engagement. These engagements include the Heads of Centre Forum, Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum, and Coastal PDMC forum meetings.

2.3.1 Heads of Centre Forum Meetings

The Heads of Centre Forum meeting aims to ensure a strategic institutional mechanism for the integrated direction and execution of Disaster Management policy in the Western Cape. The Heads of Centres across the province meet quarterly at the Heads of Centre Forum. The forum, chaired by the Provincial Disaster Management: The Head of the Centre (HOC) is attended by PDMC's senior and middle managers and the metro and district heads of the centre across the province. This forum provides a platform to share best practices, escalate challenges, and receive advice and support from strategic partners. During this reporting year, these meetings became increasingly important as they served as an integral platform for the Heads of Centre to engage with one another on the regular disasters experienced during the period under review. A fond farewell was also bid to Ms Ronelle Pieters, Assistant Director of Disaster Recovery, who went on early retirement at the end of August 2023 after more than 30 years of service.

Throughout the reporting year, the Heads of Centre Forum held four meetings at the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre in

May 2023, August 2023, November 2023, and February 2024. For details on the topics discussed during the forum, please refer to Figure 6.

Key disaster management activities of the Metro and various district municipalities	WC:PDMC planned projects for the 2023 - 2024 financial year	The development of the Disaster Management Memorandum of Agreement	Disaster Recovery Grant: Roll-Over criteria
Disaster Management Capacity Building for Municipal Officials	Utilisation/availability of Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness: EMS drones	Donation management and coordination of NGOs	Humanitarian Relief Procedures
The development of response procedures is aligned with impact-based warnings	Disaster Recovery Grant Funding Feedback	Climate Risk Tool	Heal our Land: Reporting obligations
Technical Communication analysis in the case of a electricity black-out	Summer Preparedness feedback	Reflection of severe weather events	School Safety

Figure 6: Head of Centre Forum Meeting: Annual Topics



Figure 7: HOC forum Meeting



Figure 8: A fond farewell was bid to Ms Ronelle Pieters, Assistant Director: Disaster Recovery, who went on early retirement

2.3.2 Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum Meeting

The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (WC:PDMC) embarked on a journey to enhance disaster management efforts across the province. The WC:PDMC held four Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum meetings for May 2023, August 2023, November 2023, and February 2024. These gatherings brought together approximately 80 members from various disaster management stakeholders, adopting a hybrid approach to ensure inclusivity and flexibility. The forum's primary objective was to give effect to Section 37 of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002, fostering integration and coordination among stakeholders.

During these meetings, members engaged in fruitful discussions, sharing expertise and best practices to enhance disaster management in the

Western Cape. The forum provided a platform for stakeholders to consult and coordinate their efforts, ensuring a unified approach to disaster management.

As the forum progressed, the members bid a fond farewell to Mr Caesar Sauls, a dedicated member from the Western Cape Department of Social Development, who retired in October 2023. His contributions to the forum were invaluable, and his presence will be deeply missed.

The meetings covered a range of topics (as shown in Figure 9), from risk assessments to response and recovery strategies. The forum's outcomes will have a lasting impact on the province's disaster management capabilities, ensuring a more resilient and prepared community for the future.

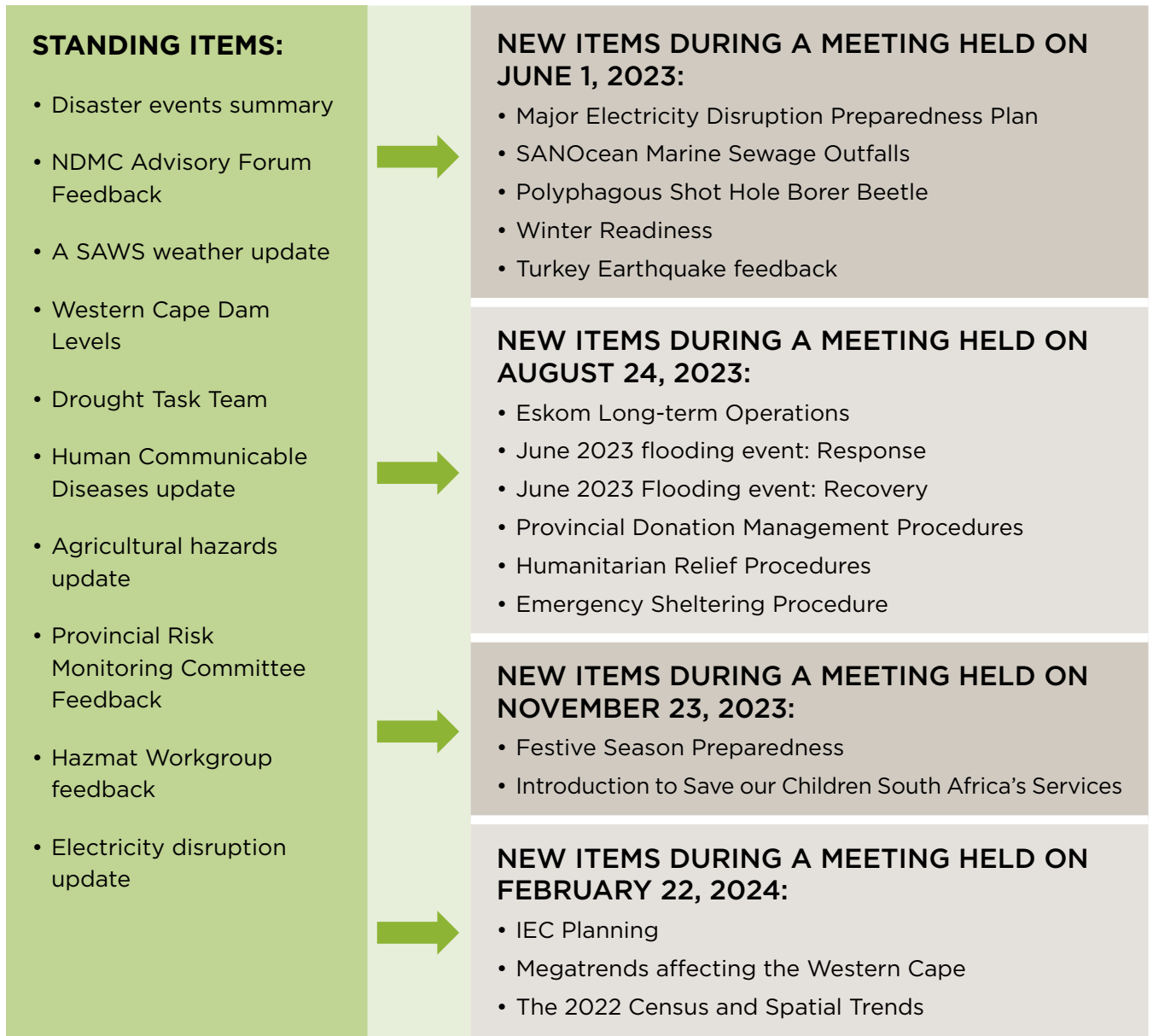


Figure 9: PDMAF Meeting Topics



Figure 10: PDMAF: Mr Caesar Sauls was bid a fond farewell after retiring on 31 October 2023



Figure 11: PDMAF Members



Figure 12: PDMAF Members

2.3.3 Coastal PDMC Forum Management Advisory

In a bid to strengthen their collective response to disasters, the four coastal Provincial Disaster Management Centres (PDMCs) joined forces to create the Coastal PDMC Forum. This innovative platform aimed to foster closer working relationships, facilitate knowledge sharing, and provide a supportive network for the coastal provinces.

The forum met twice during the reporting year, first on 21 September 2023, and again on 1 February 2024. These gatherings brought together experts from each province to share experiences, best practices, and resources.

During the meetings, participants engaged in fruitful discussions, reflecting on key lessons learned from their respective provinces. They also provided feedback on the annual plan, explored

benchmarking opportunities with the Western Cape Risk Assessment Methodology, and explored potential collaborations with humanitarian NGOs.

One critical topic that took center stage was tsunami early warnings. The forum recognised the importance of timely warnings for saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters. By sharing their expertise and experiences, the coastal provinces aimed to enhance their preparedness and response to tsunami events.

The Coastal PDMC Forum proved to be a resounding success, demonstrating the power of collaboration in disaster management. Through this platform, the coastal provinces forged stronger relationships, gained valuable insights, and enhanced their capabilities to mitigate and respond to disasters. As they continued to work together, they paved the way for a safer and more resilient future for their communities.

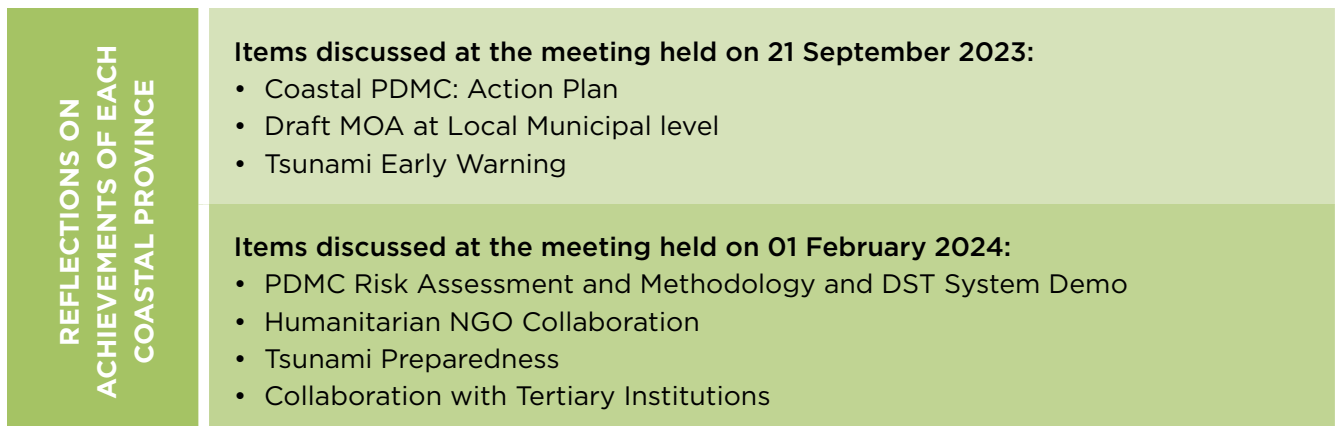


Figure 13: Coastal PDMC Forum: Annual Topics

2.3.4 Metro, District, and Municipal Disaster Management Advisory Forums

The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (WC:PDMC) provided support to metro and district municipalities, facilitating stakeholder engagements, and building partnerships to enhance disaster management efforts.

All district municipalities in the Western Cape, including Cape Winelands, Garden Route, Overberg, West Coast, and Central Karoo, as well as the City of Cape Town, have established Disaster Management Advisory Forums and Committees. These platforms drive the implementation of

disaster management initiatives within their respective areas.

The WC:PDMC actively attends these advisory forums, providing support and interventions as needed. Despite the challenges posed by frequent and severe disasters during the reporting period, the metro and districts successfully maintained their advisory forum meetings, ensuring continued collaboration and coordination in disaster management efforts.

Through this collective approach, the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre and

the metro and district municipalities demonstrated their commitment to enhancing disaster resilience and mitigating the impact of disasters in the region.

2.4 WESTERN CAPE CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

2.4.1 Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme

The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (WC:PDMC) has launched various capacity-building initiatives to support local municipalities in their disaster management efforts. One notable project is the Graduate Disaster Management Internship Programme.

This programme aims to:

- Develop the skills and knowledge of graduates in disaster management
- Provide hands-on experience in disaster management practices
- Build capacity in local municipalities to respond to disasters effectively
- Foster a culture of disaster resilience in the province

Through this programme, the WC:PDMC has demonstrated its commitment to empowering the next generation of disaster management professionals and enhancing the capacity of local municipalities to manage disasters effectively.

Some of the key highlights of the programme include:

- Training and mentorship for graduates in disaster management principles and practices
- Practical experience in disaster risk assessment, response, and recovery
- Collaboration with local municipalities to develop disaster management plans and strategies

- Networking opportunities with disaster management professionals and stakeholders.

In the realm of disaster management, an innovative program was born in 2019-20. The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (WC:PDMC) piloted the Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme, offering a select group of graduates the chance to hone their skills in this critical field.

The inaugural year saw four district municipalities: Central Karoo, Cape Winelands, West Coast, and Garden Route receive funding from the Department of Local Government to appoint four graduate interns. These pioneers embarked on a journey to enhance their knowledge and contribute to the betterment of disaster management in the Western Cape.

Despite the challenges posed by fiscal constraints, the programme persisted. In 2021-22, three graduate interns were funded and selected to continue the legacy. Their dedication and expertise further enriched the programme.

The following year, 2022-23, marked a significant milestone. Five district municipalities: Central Karoo, Cape Winelands, West Coast, Overberg, and Garden Route received funding to appoint five graduate interns. This expansion signified a growing commitment to developing disaster management capacity in the region.

The programme's success continued to flourish, with seven disaster management interns funded in 2023-24. These individuals not only gained invaluable experience but also contributed to enhancing the Western Cape's disaster management capabilities.

Through this programme, the Western Cape Government has demonstrated its dedication to nurturing the next generation of disaster management professionals. As the programme continues to grow, so does the hope for a more resilient and sustainable future.

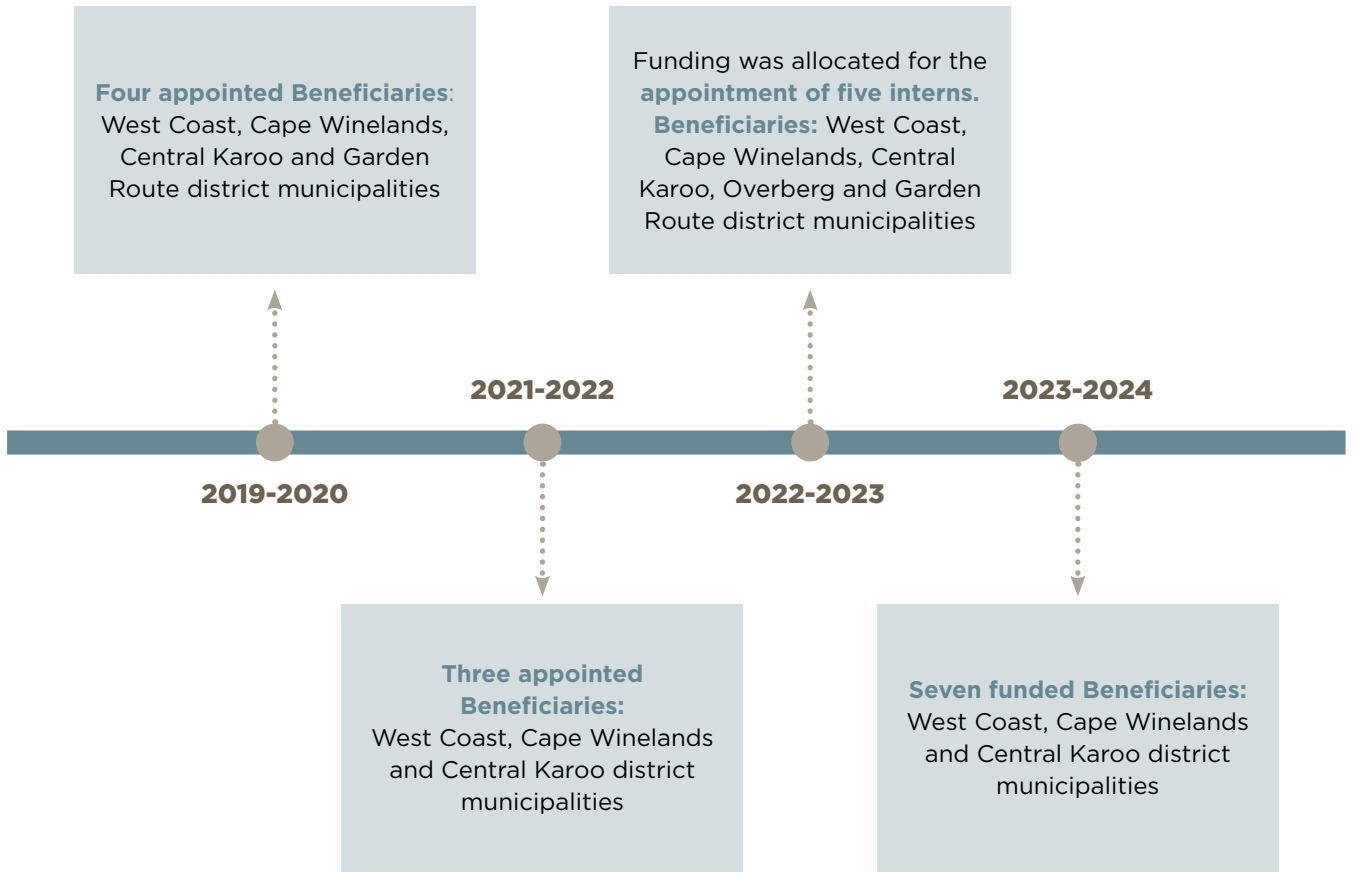


Figure 14: Disaster Management Graduate Internship Programme Project Timeline

CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



Figure 15: Mr Sizwe Nxayeka

OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



Figure 16: Bryland Lubbe

CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



Figure 17: Ms Azole Mfana

GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



Figure 18: Mr Diswayne Maarman



Figure 19: Ms Vuyo Bavuman

DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

In the world of disaster management, a new chapter unfolded from 6-8 June 2023. The Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) hosted a groundbreaking orientation programme, marking a significant milestone in the journey towards building a resilient and sustainable future.

The programme brought together a diverse group of individuals, including new employees and interns from across the Western Cape, and one official from the Northern Cape. United by a shared passion for disaster management, they embarked on a three-day journey to explore the intricacies of this critical field.

As they delved into the world of disaster management, they discovered the foundational principles of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002, and the National Disaster Management Framework 2010. With each passing day, their knowledge and skills grew, as they explored practical guidelines, Key Performance Areas, and Enablers.

The Key Performance Areas included:

- Disaster Institutional Capacity
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Disaster Response

- Disaster Recovery
- Disaster Mitigation

The Enablers included:

- Legislation and Policy
- Resource Management
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Communication and Coordination

But the programme went beyond theory. The participants engaged in a simulated disaster management exercise, putting their newfound knowledge to the test. They navigated the challenges of response and understanding, emerging stronger and more resilient.

The programme also focused on soft skills, recognising the importance of emotional intelligence, and time management in the high-pressure world of disaster management.

As the three days drew to a close, the participants departed with a newfound sense of purpose and passion. Empowered by their experience, they returned to their respective roles, ready to make a meaningful impact in the world of disaster management.

In a culminating ceremony, the Head of the Centre: Western Cape, Mr C Deiner, handed certificates of completion to the participants, acknowledging their dedication and commitment to the field of

disaster management. With certificates in hand, they embarked on their journey, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and passion to make a difference in the lives of others.



Figure 20: Disaster Management Orientation Programme

2.5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The WC:PDMC has fostered a strong partnership with the Director of International Relations, unlocking the doors to global cooperation and collaboration. Through this synergy, the WC:PDMC has established a network of international connections, facilitating the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and best practices in disaster management.

During the reporting year, the WC:PDMC engaged with the Consular Corps of various countries, further strengthening its global ties. Additionally, the centre hosted sessions with international delegates from Switzerland, Germany, and Austria, promoting cross-cultural exchange and cooperation.

These international engagements have enabled the WC:PDMC to:

- Stay abreast of global trends and innovations in disaster management

- Share its expertise and experiences with international counterparts
- Foster meaningful relationships with global partners
- Enhance its capabilities through international cooperation.

By bridging borders and fostering global connections, the WC:PDMC continues to demonstrate its commitment to building a resilient and sustainable future for the Western Cape Province.

2.6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The WC:PDMC monitored the implementation of the Disaster Management Act and the functionality of the Disaster Management Centres in the province using the NDMC Compliance Tool. A summary of the implementation of the DM Act in the Cape Town Metro as well as the district municipalities, are as follows:

MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARD	CITY OF CAPE TOWN	CENTRAL KAROO	CAPE WINELANDS	GARDEN ROUTE	OVERBERG	WEST COAST
HOC	Appointed	Head of Centre in the process of being appointed. Acting HOC in place	Appointed	Appointed	Appointed	Appointed
ANNUAL REPORT	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted
ACTIVE ADVISORY FORUM	Active and meets quarterly	Active and meets biannually	Active and meets biannually	Active and meets quarterly	Have a functional Advisory Forum	Quarterly
RISK ASSESSMENT (RA)	A comprehensive Disaster Risk Assessment was completed by Luticento Pty Ltd in 2020	Risks updated as per District Risk Assessment as reviewed by WC:PDMC in March 2022	Priority risks were identified in risk assessments	Disaster Risk Assessments (DRA) were completed at all local municipalities. Busy with an update on District DRA	ODM Risk Assessment completed and updated in March 2023	RA for specific known hazards undertaken and documented as per national standards
FRAMEWORK	Has a framework	Has a framework	Has a framework	Has a framework	Has a framework	Has a framework
DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN	Has a Disaster Management Plan in place	Has a Disaster Management Plan in place	Has a Disaster Management Plan in place	Has a Disaster Management Plan in place	Has a Disaster Management Plan in place	Has a Disaster Management Plan in place

Table 4: Summary of the Implementation of the DM Act in the Cape Town Metro and District Municipalities

2.7 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY CHALLENGES

The WC:PDMC embarked on the fifth phase of reviewing and updating the Disaster Management Provincial Framework. This critical process aims to align the framework with the National Disaster Management Framework, as mandated by the Disaster Management Act of 2002, amended in 2015. Upon the completion of the review process for the National Disaster Management Framework, further refinement will be carried out.

The journey has not been without its challenges, particularly in addressing the longstanding issue of human capacity and appropriate staffing at the municipal level. The amended Act acknowledges the need for capable disaster management officials in municipalities, empowering them to make provisions for this critical function.

Despite these challenges, the WC:PDMC seized the opportunity to strengthen its institutional

arrangements in the province. By adopting a hybrid approach, the Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum meetings facilitated collaboration, coordination, and partnership while minimising travel costs.

In a further demonstration of commitment, the WC:PDMC provided financial support to the district municipalities, enabling them to appoint seven Disaster Management interns. The district municipalities invested in the programme and appointed interns in various areas, a testament to the growing recognition of disaster management's importance in the Western Cape.

As the province continues to face the challenges of compound disasters, the need for effective disaster management at the local level has become increasingly critical. The WC:PDMC's efforts demonstrate a dedication to building a resilient and sustainable future for all, leaving no one behind.



Figure 21: Consul General

3

DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Within the National Disaster Management Framework, Key Performance Area 2 sets out a uniform approach to assessing and monitoring disaster risks that will inform Disaster Risk Management Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction undertaken by the organs of state and other role-players. Within this framework, the Provincial Disaster Management Centre developed a Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology.

The WC:PDMC developed the first Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology (WC:SRAM) in the 2011-2012 performance year and aimed to ensure that all disaster risk assessments were completed uniformly and could be aligned with the Western Cape Provincial Indicative Disaster Risk Profile. This WC:SRAM provided a

comprehensive disaster risk assessment approach by incorporating two components:

- 1) a community-based/stakeholder-based risk assessment; and
- 2) a scientific-based disaster risk assessment.

Given the dynamic nature of the disaster management field, the WC:PDMC acknowledged the need to ensure that the province continued to follow the latest risk assessment best practices, which resulted in the efforts to review and update the WC:SRAM. The WC:PDMC embarked on a programme to officially hand over, and workshop on the new WC:SRAM in each district from August 2024 to October 2024. The updated WC:SRAM provides innovative approaches to developing practicable risk assessments and capacitating municipalities to perform risk assessments independently



Figure 22: Risk Assessment Methodology Workshop: Stakeholder Engagement



Figure 23: Bitou Municipality Risk Assessment Pilot Workshop

3.2 BITOU MUNICIPALITY DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT

During the 2023-2024 period, the WC:PDMC initiated a pilot program to test the effectiveness of the updated Western Cape Standardised Risk Assessment Methodology. Two municipalities, namely Bitou Municipality and Bergriver Municipality, were identified to carry out these pilot studies, commencing with Bitou Municipality in Plettenberg Bay.

Bitou Municipality (BM) received hands-on support from the WC:PDMC, in partnership with the Garden Route District Municipality (GDRM), to revise and enhance its 2019 Disaster Risk Assessment. This support was provided through interactive workshops held on 18-19 October 2023. The primary objective of these workshops is to empower BLM in implementing the new WC:SRAM, while

also enabling the WC:PDMC to offer continuous assistance and oversight throughout the project.

The hands-on support extended to online hazard-specific focus groups and mapping sessions, designed to better understand, and analyse the risk profile of Bitou Municipality.

Between 2015 and 2020, the WC:PDMC's focus was on providing financial and technical support to the district and local municipalities in the province to undertake disaster risk assessments; to date, all district municipalities and local municipalities have been assisted. Over the next five years, the WC:PDMC seeks to shift its support to focus on the institutionalisation of risk reduction in municipalities.

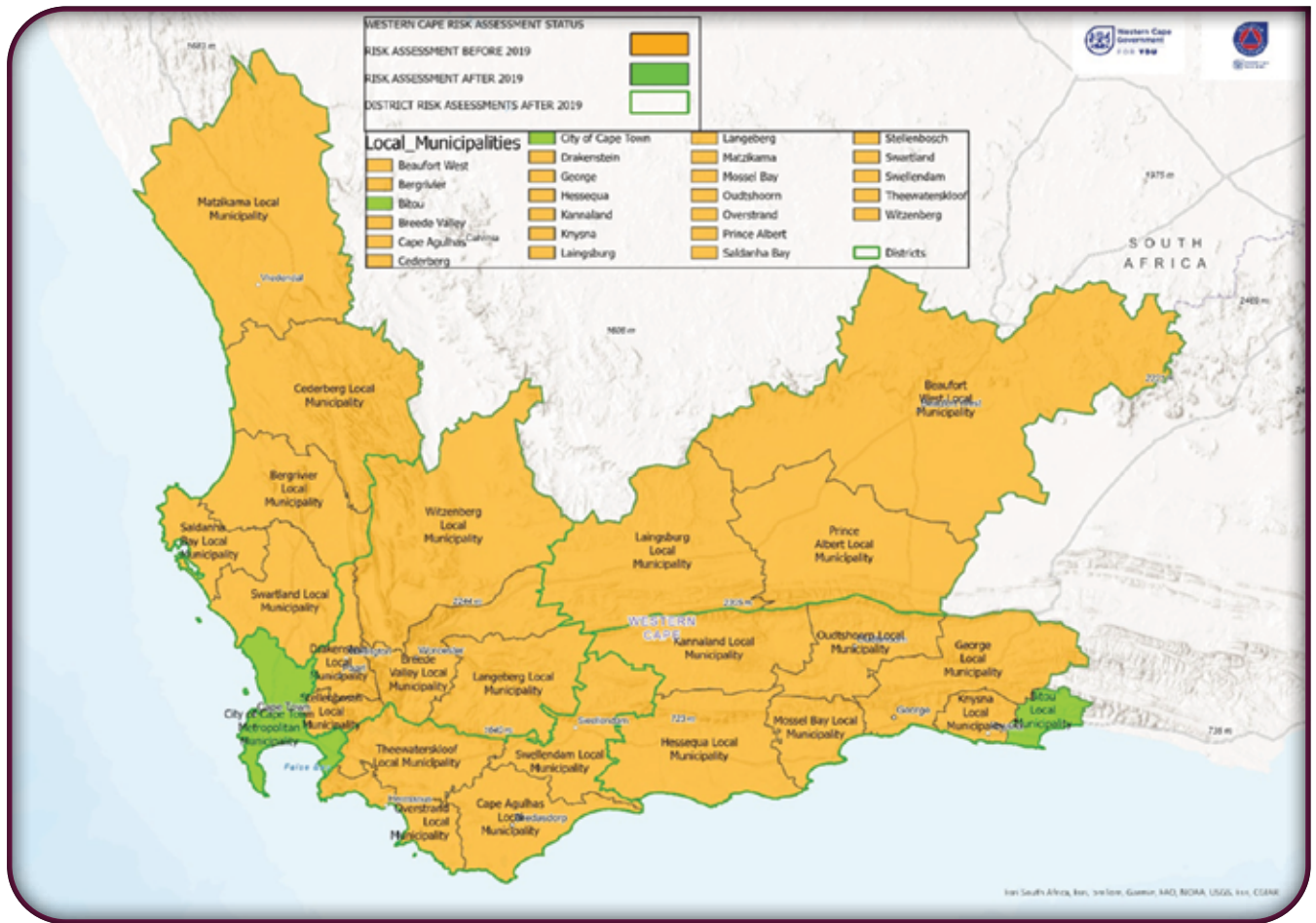


Figure 24: Western Cape Risk Assessment Status

3.3 DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SPATIAL DATA REPOSITORY

The WC:PDMC has a fully functional and well-maintained Spatial Data Repository (SDR) that includes a web-based Decision Support Tool (DST); this provides decision-makers with accurate and credible information. All operational datasets are updated, maintained, and uploaded onto our central data repository.

This repository is housed at the Department of the Premier (DOTP) and is maintained on a quarterly basis. All data goes through a verification process and is checked thoroughly before it is uploaded.

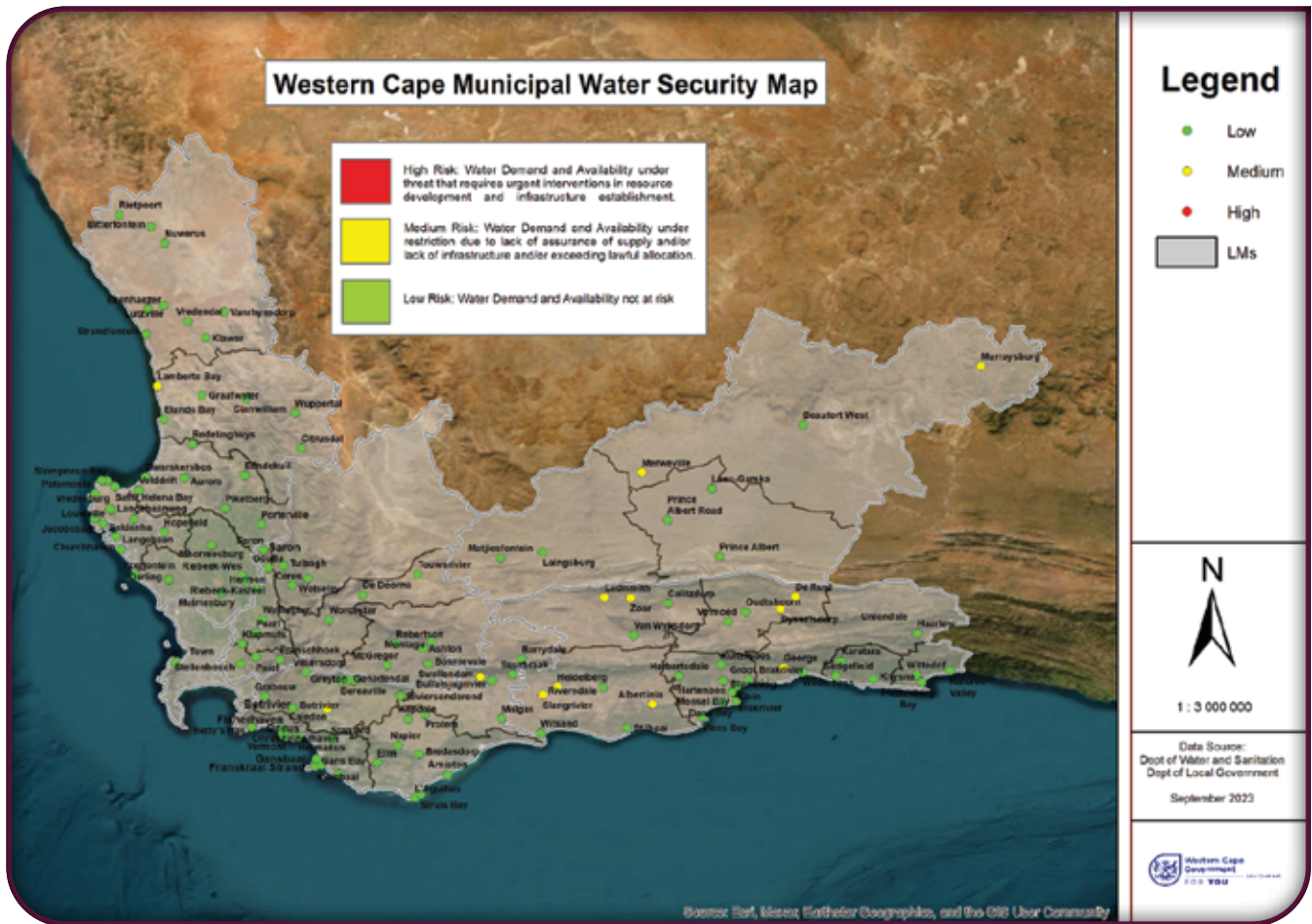


Figure 25: Disaster Management Decision Support Tool Preview

3.3.1 Institutional arrangements and GIS support

- The Western Cape has moderate GIS-related human resources across the province, specifically within the Department of Local Government. Nevertheless, to harness capacity during a disaster, it is critical to plan by identifying potential activities to assess capacity requirements adequately.
- As one of the two municipalities earmarked for piloting the updated methodology, Bitou Municipality was identified for hands-on GIS support during the review process

of their Disaster Risk Assessment. As such, the WC:PDMC supported the Municipality in sourcing datasets and developing a map book to visually represent indicative risks in the Bitou Municipality. Some of the datasets sourced for this process include the following:

- socio-economic vulnerability;
- spatial distribution of informal settlements;
- protected areas for conservation;
- spatial distribution of biomes; &
- river systems

3.4 RISK ASSESSMENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In recent years, the WC:PDMC has become increasingly aware of the need for more capacity at a Local Municipal level to conduct disaster risk assessments independently. Requests from municipalities for support were the catalyst for undertaking an intensive review of the risk assessment methodology and developing a Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Tool training for all municipalities in the Western Cape.

During the 2023-24 financial year, the WC:PDMC conducted handover workshops in all the districts to present the final WC:SRAM to the districts, as well as to provide training on how to use the tools provided in the updated methodology. Continuous training and support will further capacitate municipalities to independently conduct risk assessments and play a vital role in understanding the Western Cape's risk profile, as well as implementing targeted risk reduction interventions.

4

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The DMA (Act 57, 2000) aims to ensure that all disaster management stakeholders develop and implement integrated disaster management plans and risk reduction programmes, i.e., the Disaster Management Chapter in the Municipal Integrated Development Plan. These include long-term Risk Reduction Intervention Strategies and short-term Mitigation Intervention Strategies to alleviate the impact of disasters on communities.

4.1.1 Early Warning Systems

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is the legally mandated authority in South Africa responsible for determining and distributing Impact-Based Severe Weather Warnings. The WC:PDMC, plays a crucial role in ensuring that early warnings are disseminated to broader stakeholders to ensure they can take the necessary steps to avoid or reduce the risk and prepare for an effective response.

In August 2020, the SAWS officially implemented its Impact-Based Weather Warning System to warn the public of possible impacts due to hazardous weather. It is the movement from communicating “what the weather will be” to informing the public of “what the weather will do”.

4.1.2 Impact-Based Weather Warning Scale

The SAWS Impact-Based Weather Warning Scale is used to help forecasters and disaster managers determine the warning level based on its potential impacts.

The colour coding and the numbering are determined by combining the level of impact with the likelihood of that impact occurring. It means that the forecaster will decide the possible result because of a particular hazard (rainfall, for example), with input from the local disaster managers. Then, the likelihood of that impact is established using the numerical weather prediction models as well as local knowledge of the antecedent conditions (any previous rainfall) (SAWS, 2021).

Likelihood	High		2	6	10
	Medium		1	5	9
	Low			4	8
	Very Low			3	7
		Minimal	Minor	Significant	Severe
Impact					

Figure 26: Impact-Based Weather Warning Scale

4.2 IMPACT-BASED SEVERE WEATHER EARLY WARNING DISSEMINATION

The WC:PDMC has developed a standard operating procedure for disseminating impact-based severe weather warnings in the province. This was developed in collaboration with the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the District Disaster Management Centres and the City of Cape Town.

The province held workshops with each district municipality to understand their approach to early warning dissemination; based on these discussions, a standard operating procedure (SOP) for each district was defined and agreed to, and recorded in the province's Severe Weather Early Warning SOP.

This document was presented to all provincial centres at the South African Weather Service's IBF Conference in Gauteng as an example of 'What Has Worked in Early Warnings' for the Western Cape.

During the 2023-24 financial year, SAWS issued a number of early warnings for severe weather events, notably the ones listed below. These warnings were successfully disseminated by the WC:PDMC and assisted the various districts in preparing adequate response measures for the anticipated impacts.

Notable Impact-Based Forecasting Warning Disseminated

- June 2023: Orange Level 6 Warning for Disruptive rain and severe thunderstorms over the Cape Winelands, Overberg, and Garden Route Districts.
- September 2023: Orange Level 9 Warning for Disruptive rains over much of the Overberg District.
- March 2024: Yellow Level 4 Warning for severe thunderstorms over the Central Karoo and parts of the Garden Route District.

4.3 MITIGATION INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

4.3.1 Hazard Awareness Programme

The Hazard Awareness Programme is a multifaceted awareness programme that aims at educating the public about reducing the risks in their communities.

4.3.1.1 Disaster Awareness Campaign

The WC:PDMC embarked on its annual Disaster Awareness Campaign from 25 January - 9 February 2024.

The Disaster Awareness Campaign is in the form of an interactive play, that features the Disaster Management mascot, Gerry the Giraffe. The play focuses on hazards that are prevalent in all communities across the Western Cape and aims at instilling a culture of hazard avoidance amongst our young learners. Safety and prevention messages are conveyed with humour and song to teach the learners about do's and don'ts around loadshedding, flooding and fire. The learners are also taught emergency numbers to ensure that they know who to contact in an emergency.

On 25 January 2024, the show debuted at Hawston Primary School, after which it was rolled out in 10 schools in the Bitou and Knysna Municipalities.



Figure 27: Disaster Awareness Campaign in Bitou and Knysna Municipalities

4.3.1.2 High School Debating Competition

The WC:PDMC has a long-standing collaboration with Working on Fire (WoF) to bring a high school debating competition to communities. The debating competition aims to allow grade 8 and 9 learners to discuss environmental issues that harm their social livelihood and natural environment. The theme for this year's competition focused on issues related to climate change and how humankind can limit the wrath of this environmental threat. The eight participating high schools debated topics of reforestation, global warming and renewable energy.

This year's debate took place in the Cape Winelands District Municipality, with Paarl Girls' High School,

Hoërskool Bellville and Soneike Private School taking the top three places.



Figure 28: The High School Debating Competition



Figure 29: Commemoration of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

4.3.2 Commemoration of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is commemorated annually on 13 October. This day promotes a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction. The 2023 theme was 'Fighting inequality for a resilient future', which looked at the reciprocal relationship between disasters and inequality.

The WC:PDMC supported the West Coast District Municipality's commemoration. The commemoration was in the form of an exhibition where community members and learners could obtain vital information about the services available to them and be provided with vital awareness information. The WC:PDMC had an exhibition table and provided awareness materials to attendees.

4.3.3 Support for municipalities

During the financial year, the WC:PDMC supported numerous municipalities with the provision of awareness materials. Awareness materials in the form of pamphlets, rulers, pencils, and lanyards are distributed to municipalities to assist them in raising their awareness efforts.

Municipalities were also provided with Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer awareness materials.

Awareness materials are designed to assist municipalities with creating awareness both during community outreaches and on social media. Flood awareness materials in the form of pamphlets, posters, activity books and social media collateral were created.

4.4 DISASTER MANAGEMENT RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre, is mandated by Enabler 2 of the National Disaster Management Framework of 2005 to conduct and support research proposals that strengthen the strategic research agenda in the province. Within this mandate, the WC:PDMC has established

relations with universities to collaborate in terms of research and information sharing; and, as such, has availed itself for the benefit of postgraduate students conducting research, as well as sharing information through lectures.

WC:PDMC has also further initiated a process to establish disaster management research needs database primarily influenced by research requirements from which the District Disaster Management Centres and their municipalities can benefit.

The WC:PDMC continued its support of tertiary institutions with an educational visit by students from Stenden University on 31 May 2023. The purpose of the visit was to inform the students studying Disaster Relief Management of the functions and activities of the WC:PDMC.

4.5 DEVELOPMENT OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLANS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Following the development of a Guideline for Risk Reduction Planning and the Integration into Development Planning in 2022-2023, the WC:PDMC initiated a project to support municipalities with the development of a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Planning project was rolled out in George and Stellenbosch Municipalities, where Disaster Risk Reduction Plans were developed for these municipalities. Stakeholder workshops and one-on-one interviews were undertaken with identified role players, to get an understanding of the current and future risk reduction initiatives for priority risks. Each municipality was presented with a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan for inclusion in the Disaster Management Plan.



Figure 30: Workshops to Develop a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan for George Municipality



Figure 31: Workshops to Develop a Disaster Risk Reduction Plan for George Municipality

4.6 DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND IDP IN THE WESTERN CAPE

The departure points for all Disaster Risk Reduction activities that resources invested today can prevent human and financial losses that outweigh the initial investment many times over. One of the priorities of the WC:PDMC is to support municipalities in realising that this approach can be materialistically achieved by focusing on incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction within the Integrated Development Planning (IDP), as well as by coordinating Disaster Risk Reduction through the IDP's phases, mechanisms, and processes.

The IDP is also an approach to plan involving the entire municipality and its citizens in finding the best solutions to achieve good long-term and sustainable development (social, economic, and environmental development). This approach also applies to Disaster Management Planning and how it interacts and synergises with the Integrated Development Plan. It mainly applies to the IDP process, mechanisms, and phases, where Disaster Management Planning should run parallel with the IDP cycle.

During the reporting period, the WC:PDMC supported the George and Stellenbosch Municipalities with the development of a compliant disaster management chapter for the IDP. This support is done at the conclusion of the Disaster Risk Reduction Planning Project to ensure that risk reduction initiatives are included in the IDP.

The WC:PDMC is responsible for the assessment of the Disaster Management Chapter in the IDP. The Department of Local Government, through

the Directorate: Integrated Development Planning, coordinates and facilitates annual assessments of municipal IDPs. Sector Departments assess the IDPs' content, relevance, and quality per their IDP indicators, which are based on legislative requirements.

A guideline was developed to inform municipalities as to what should be included in the IDP Chapter. This guideline is used as the basis for the assessments conducted by the WC:PDMC. Annual reviews of the five-year IDP should reflect on the progress made on institutional arrangements, risk assessment updates, risk reduction projects and interventions, and any changes to the disaster management preparedness, response, and contingency plans.

4.7 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

This section shares preparedness strategies implemented, as well as the response activities of the WC:PDMC.

4.7.1 Disaster Management Plans

Disaster management plans incorporate elements of preparedness, response, and recovery appropriate to the respective functional areas of the different organs of the state. All finalised plans are uploaded onto the UNITI software, making them easily accessible.

During the reporting year, the WC:PDMC supported the development and updating of the following plans:

DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLANS: UPDATED/DEVELOPED/COMMENTED ON

George Municipality: Electrical Emergency & Operational Plan for Power Outages Affecting Point of Supply

Mossel Bay Municipality: Loadshedding Contingency Plan

Oudtshoorn Municipality: Loadshedding Contingency Plan

Overberg District: Eskom Emergency Strategic Plan

Overberg District: Electricity Emergency Tactical Plan

Table 5: Disaster Management Plans: Updated/Developed

5

DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This key performance area includes the implementation of priorities concerned with disaster response, recovery, and rehabilitation in the province of the Western Cape. It addresses the requirements in the Act for an integrated and coordinated policy that focuses on rapid and effective response to disasters and post-disaster

recovery. When a significant event or disaster occurs, or is threatening to occur, there must be clarity in roles and responsibilities and the necessary procedures to be followed. It describes measures for effective disaster response, recovery, and rehabilitation planning.

5.2 DISASTER RESPONSE

The Western Cape Province experienced an unprecedented number of major incidents/disasters between April 2023 and March 2024.

The first incident occurred in May 2023, when severe weather impacted the Overstrand Municipality area. The second incident occurred in June 2023. On 12 June 2023, the Western Cape received impact warning levels ranging from 4 to 7

across the province. This prompted the activation of the centre from 14-19 June 2023 to coordinate efforts across the province. Major impacts were experienced in the City of Cape Town area, West Coast, Cape Winelands, and Overberg Districts. The centre was instrumental in ensuring the provision of 32 tons of relief in the Cederberg area through the utilisation of the Working on Fire Helicopter to safely reach cut-off communities.



Figure 32: Utilisation of the Working on Fire Helicopter



Figure 33: Utilisation of the Working on Fire Helicopter

From 16-17 September 2023 the Western Cape experienced coastal storm surges impacting the City of Cape Town, Knysna, George and Still Bay areas.

On 21 September 2023, the South African Weather Services issued an impact-based weather warning for the City of Cape Town, Cape Winelands,

Overberg, and Garden Route Districts. This warning was upgraded on Heritage Day, 24 September, to an orange level 9 for disruptive rain in the Overberg and Cape Winelands areas. The WC:PDMC was activated from 24 September 2023 until 10 October 2023. The flooding had devastating impacts on roads and infrastructure with at least eleven (11) fatalities.



Figure 34: Franschoek Pass



Figure 35: Botrivier N2

The WC:PDMC assisted the City of Cape Town with the Simonstown fire which raged on from 19-23 December 2023.

The centre was once again placed on partial or low activation to coordinate various wildland fires in the Wolseley, Bainskloof areas from 2 January 2024 to 2 February 2024.

Major Electricity Disruption

The Western Cape: Provincial Disaster Management Centre has been proactive in its major electricity disruption planning, ensuring departments and various stakeholders know their responsibilities. The Provincial Major Electricity Disruption Plan 2021 has been utilised as a catalyst throughout the province and the country.

One of the significant challenges when dealing with higher stages (6-8), and a major blackout

is emergency communications. The Centre has therefore been focusing on technical communications, whereby a business analyst was appointed to investigate the current status of the technical communication capability in the province, which included the radio network, satellite connectivity, and internet etc. On 1 March 2024, an exercise was held with all stakeholders to test such capability.

On 6 July 2023, the WC:PDMC conducted a Cluster Planning Workshop to ensure integrated preparedness and response to prolonged loadshedding, any major electricity disruption or blackouts to manage the activities of the government, to ensure on-going essential services in the province and minimise disruption caused by this emergency. Stakeholders included the Western Cape Provincial Government, municipalities, and the South African National Defence Force.



Figure 36: Provincial Technical Communication Exercise held on 1 March 2024

The other focus has been on the availability of fuel during a blackout with numerous engagements taking place with key stakeholders such as Astron as well as the South African Defence Force.

The Western Cape's planning was put to the test when Central Karoo District and parts of Garden Route District experienced an electricity outage from 3-16 February 2024. At 21:07, Saturday, 3 February 2024 Eskom supply to multiple towns in the Western Cape was interrupted due to the total collapse of electrical towers.

Seven pylons were damaged by gale-force winds and heavy rainfall along the Laingsburg/Tiusrivier 132kV power line.

On Sunday, February 4, 2024 the WC:PDMC arranged a JoC meeting for 5 February 2024 to ensure the immediate mobilisation of resources such as humanitarian relief, and generators etc.

The centre was activated from 5-16 February 2024 to coordinate the availability and supply of generators, humanitarian relief, as well as communications for both public and technical capability.



Figure 37: Repairing the Pylon



Figure 38: Provision of Relief

5.1.1 Other response

The WC:PDMC assisted with the following response activities and ensured the necessary situation reporting where applicable:

Taxi violence broke out on August 3, 2023 due to tensions between the City of Cape Town and taxi operators related to a new by-law, which gives the municipality the power to impound vehicles rather than fining drivers for offences such as not displaying registration plates, being unlicensed, overloading, and the failure to stop when instructed to do so. Minibus taxi drivers affiliated with the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) embarked on an indefinite strike and related protests in the Western Cape Province from 3-9 August. The WC:PDMC supported the Safety and Security cluster and was represented in the PROVJOC.

Protection Working Group Contingency Planning Workshop

On 16 November 2023, the WC:PDMC participated in the Protection Working Group (PWG) Contingency Planning Workshop, coordinated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and South Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO). The PWG members and relevant government departments mandated to respond to disasters in South Africa convened to examine and discuss the context in which South Africa could face potential emergency scenarios brought on by a substantial increase in anti-foreigner attacks during the 2024 election period and to develop a provincial skeleton joint response plan by identifying the critical leads (stakeholders), should any violence erupt.

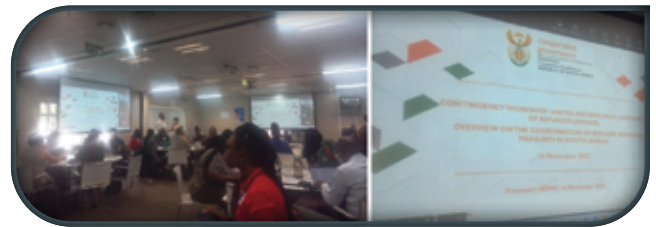


Figure 39: The UNHCR and SAMCO workshop

National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) Roadshows (February 27-28, 2024)

On 27 and 28 February 2024 the Department of Transport (DoT) hosted a roadshow where stakeholders presented the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and demonstrated pollution combatting equipment as well as wildlife response. The South African Comprehensive Maritime Transport Policy makes provision for DoT, in co-operation with other Departments and agencies, to maintain a comprehensive contingency plan to ensure compliance with the provisions of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC). Each organisation provided an overview of their core function and the role that they play in an oil spill incident. Drizit Environmental Oil and Chemical Pollution Control and Spill Tech Hazardous Waste Management showcased their equipment and demonstrated their capabilities.



Figure 40: Demonstration by Drizit Environmental Oil and Chemical Pollution Control



Figure 41: Spill Tech Hazardous Waste Management showcasing their equipment

5.2 STAKEHOLDER EXERCISES

5.2.1 Koeberg Nuclear Power Station (KNPS) Exercises

Annually, the City of Cape Town conducts a full-scale Koeberg Nuclear Power Station (KNPS) Emergency Exercise and a biennial National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) Exercise to test the City of Cape Town's Radiological Release Response Procedure, which describes the arrangements made to safeguard the public and minimise the impact on the people of any consequences of a nuclear incident at KNPS.

In preparation for the full-scale KNPS exercise scheduled on 29 November 2023, a KNPS Mass

Care Centre Thematic Exercise was conducted on 3 August 2023, to test the communications of the various responders between the Decision Coordination Team, the Holding Point, Public Notifications, Forward Control Point (the old Sub-Zone, now renamed FCP), Roadblocks and Mass Care Centre. The Mass Care Centre accommodates evacuees who may have been contaminated with radioactive material.

The WC:PDMC participated in both the KNPS Mass Care Centre Thematic Exercise on 3 August 2023 as well as the KNPS exercise, which occurred on 29 November 2023.



Figure 42: Koeberg Station Mass Care Centre Thematic Exercise on 3 August 2023

5.2.2 Western Cape Electricity Disruption Planning Exercise

The WC:PDMC recently conducted a simulation exercise to prepare for a national blackout. Through the activation of the Centre and communication with various role players, the WC:PDMC staff tested emergency procedures, roles, management, and

communication systems. The exercise culminated in creating filing and reporting systems on UNITI, with a JoC meeting, and joint media release testing also taking place. The coordination of response actions following a blackout was also tested, making the exercise a comprehensive and effective preparation measure.



Figure 43: WC:PDMC: Black-out Exercise



Figure 44: Fine Chemicals Corporation emergency exercise, Epping

5.3 DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING COMMITTEES

The WC:PDMC is an active Operation Phakisa Interim Incident Management Organisation Workgroup member. Extensive interaction, as well as training, has taken place concerning the Incident Management/Command System. The WC:PDMC is represented by various other working groups, namely, the Training Working Group, the National Oil Spill Plan Working Group and the Incident Management System Manual working group.

Furthermore, the WC:PDMC participated in the quarterly Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Planning Steering Oversight Committees, which deal with Nuclear Preparedness and the Road

Incident Management Committee meetings (RIMS). The WC:PDMC also participates in the City of Cape Town's Flood and Storm Task Team and any ad-hoc Provjoc meetings held by SAPS.

5.3.1 Readiness of WC:PDMC

The centre received communication from the Department of Health and Wellness about the necessity for the centre, which is currently based on Tygerberg Hospital premises, to be relocated due to the reconstruction of a new hospital. Numerous engagements have taken place between the Departments of Health and Wellness, Department of Infrastructure and Department of Local Government in order to ascertain the alternative building and site.

A benchmarking exercise took place with KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Provincial and eThekweni Municipal Disaster Management Centres on 15 and 16 May 2023. The current WC:PDMC was constructed nearly 20 years ago, which leaves it as one of the oldest centres in the country. Hence, the benchmarking took place as an opportunity to learn from the mentioned newer centres in terms of practical functionality.

The following pertinent issues must be considered when constructing a centre:

- It is vital that a centre meet the functionality and purpose of activation in terms of efficient communication/collaboration between stakeholders. The current tactical side of the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre is well designed, but it needs to be larger.
- The support and maintenance of all equipment, infrastructure, and machinery (generator) are important to ensure the ongoing operability of any disaster management centre.
- Security and parking must not be overlooked in any envisaged relocation. The location of a centre is equally important.
- A training centre, media room, breakaway rooms and cloak-like bathrooms are requisites as per the national guideline, which must be considered with any rebuild or relocation.
- The relocation of the current WC:DMC must plan for the complete solution namely, the inclusion of audio-visual equipment, generators and or solar panels etc.



Figure 45: EThekweni Disaster Management Centre



Figure 46: KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Provincial Management Centre

Since 2020-21, the WC: PMDC has been following a process to replace all the audio-visual equipment in the centre. This has remained a challenge due to the technical nature of the specifications and the uncertainty of the relocation of the centre. The Centre has, however, appointed a service provider to support and maintain the existing audio-visual equipment.

5.3.2 Standard Operating Procedures

The WC:PDMC tested, reviewed and updated the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the 2023-2024 financial year by means of activations, internal debriefs, and consultation with the Chief Directorate. It was evident that the SOPs required further reviews, and updates, which were duly completed.

5.3.3 Disaster Management Information system

The WC:PDMC had a Disaster Management Information and Communication (DMIS) called Uniti for a 12-month contract, which was due to expire in January 2024. After an investigation into extending the contract, it was advised to re-advertise the specifications, which was duly followed. This prompted the WC:PDMC to advertise specifications in 2023 for a new (DMIS) and appointed a service provider, Spinning Your Web, and entered into a three-year agreement.

5.4 ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRES

The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre assisted the Central Karoo District Disaster Management Centre and Hesseque Municipality by procuring a UNITI child license for their Centres due to financial constraints.

Due to technical challenges in the Central Karoo District Municipality, the team was trained at the WC:PDMC



Figure 47: Central Karoo UNITI training – 26-29 February 2024

The centre has provided ongoing hands-on support to the Central Karoo District Municipality by sharing the WC:PDMC SOPs and engaging them in this regard.

5.5 CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Besides the Centre activations for the coordination of major incidents and disaster, the centre was utilised as a Joint Operations Centre to coordinate various major events and activities, such as the 46th Cape Town Cycle Tour that took place on Sunday, 10 March 2024. This year was the second

year of the short route (42 km). Entrant numbers for the 109 km route were 25 000 and 3 000 for the 42 km route.

The below depicts the events and activities hosted throughout the year.



Figure 48: Overview of the Disaster Management Centre to the Voortrekker Youth Development group on 18 August 2023



Figure 49: Gauteng Disaster Management benchmarking visit for Information and Communications Systems in Western Cape Province on 1 September 2023

The Western Cape delegation from the National Council of Provinces visited the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre on 13 September 2023, with the theme “Progress in building viable provincial and municipal infrastructure address for effective delivery of services to communities.”



Figure 50: National Council of Provinces: 13 September 2023

Mr Martin Meyer, a Member of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature, visited the Centre in September 2023 to benchmark against flooding situations in the Western Cape Province.



Figure 51: Mr Martin Meyer: KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature - September 2023



Figure 53: The newly appointed Consul Generals meets Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre on 20 November 2023



Figure 52: Cape Town Sanlam Marathon - 15 October 2023



Figure 54: New Consul Generals: 20 November 2023



Figure 55: Heal our Land ICS training and exercise

The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre provided Heal Our Land with the Incident Command System (ICS) training at the Centre from 8-10 February 2024. The centre drew up and facilitated a simulation for Heal Our Land on the final day of the training. The training and the simulation objective is to provide NGOs with an opportunity to learn what their role is, and how to execute their role during a disaster.

The annual Cape Town Cycle Tour was coordinated by the Disaster Management Centre on 10 March 2024. This event included the tracking of the Premier, the Mayor, and ministers that participated in the event.



Figure 56: Heal Our Land: ICS training and exercise - 8-10 February 2024



Figure 57: Cape Town Cycle Tour: March 10, 2024

5.6 DISASTER RESPONSE CHALLENGES

Major electricity loadshedding has enormously impacted municipalities and service delivery. It is vital for the National Disaster Management Centre to ensure planning at the national level should the entire country experience a major electricity disruption or a prolonged loadshedding incident. All provinces will compete for the same national resource, therefore National Planning is vital.

An additional challenge is the alignment of disaster management information systems due to the National Disaster Management Centre not implementing an information system, the WC:PDMC procured the above UNITI software; however, any newly procured or utilised systems must be interoperable.

5.7 DISASTER RECOVERY

5.7.1 Damage Assessments

Two significant weather events were sustained in the province during the year under review. The first was cumulatively experienced from 30-31 May and 14-19 June 2023 and then from 16-17 September as well as 23-24 September 2023, hereafter referred to as the June and September floods, respectively. The WC:PDMC, in collaboration with other organs

of the state is mandated to conduct damage assessments to verify the severity and impact of any significant incident with the potential of becoming a disaster (Section 23 of the DMA 57 of 2002). The two severe weather event assessments were aimed at determining damages and losses to the provincial sector departments (Agriculture, Infrastructure, and Western Cape Education Department) and the affected municipalities within the District Municipal areas of Overberg, Cape Winelands, West Coast, and City of Cape Town Metro, with a special focus on the impact and losses to livestock and grazing areas, road network, education facilities and municipal infrastructure.

May and June Floods

In line with this provision, the Disaster Management Centre conducted damage assessment verification in collaboration with the Municipal Infrastructure Directorate, municipal technical teams and Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) on 12 June 2023 for the May flood in the Overberg District Municipality (Gansbaai, Kleinmond, Bettys Bay, and Pringle Bay). June flood damage assessment verification was conducted in July 2023. The affected municipalities visited were Cape Winelands, Overberg, West Coast District Municipalities, and City of Cape Town Metro Municipality.



Figure 58: Overberg District Municipality Damage



Figure 59: Cederberg Municipality Damage



Figure 60: Agricultural Damages



Figure 61: Agricultural Damages



Figure 62: Road Damages

September Floods

Storm surges and floods occurred in the Cape Winelands, Overberg, Garden Route district municipalities and the City of Cape Town Metro Municipality from 16-17 September and 24 to 25 September 2023 respectively. The province first experienced a coastal storm surge on 16-17 September 2023, which mainly affected Knysna, Hessequa, George and Mossel Bay Local Municipalities within the Garden Route District. The Department of Local Government, through its Disaster Management Centre, conducted damage assessment verifications in collaboration with officials of the Department of the Local Government Municipal Infrastructure Directorate. These damage assessments included the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), the Cape Winelands District Municipality including the Stellenbosch and Langeberg Municipalities, Overberg District Municipality including Overstrand and Theewaterskloof Local Municipalities and the City of Cape Town (Metro) technical team. from October 18-30, 2023. Damage assessment verification were conducted from 18-30 October 2023. The Department of Local Government Disaster Management Centre further conducted damage assessment verifications in collaboration with officials of the Municipal Infrastructure, MISA, and affected coastal municipalities on 29-30 January 2024.

5.7.2 Summarised Funding Requirement: Floods of 2023

The WC:PDMC analysed the business plans, detailing rehabilitation and recovery infrastructure projects the entities intended to implement per the disaster grant framework. The assessment criteria, among others, specified that in requesting national disaster funds, the entity must ensure that the calculations are concise and only include damages incurred due to that specific event, not damages resulting from poorly maintained infrastructure. Moreover, it was imparted to stakeholders that funding applications should only be for augmentation funds, following the reprioritisation of budgets and emergency repairs that the line function must undertake.

To this extent, all potential beneficiaries had significantly reprioritised and redirected funds to the extent possible, coupled with responses to mitigate other flood and fire incidents, violent protest actions, wildfires, and drought in certain parts of the province. As a result, the province reprioritised its existing budgets to deal with these occurrences. The applicants excluded damaged infrastructure losses with adequate insurance from the funding requests.

Below are the summaries of the funds requested from the National Disaster Management Centre due to the May, June and September floods that plagued the province in the previous reporting period of 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024.

The confirmed financial shortfall for municipal and provincial infrastructure amounted to R703,336,886 and R977,686,573,3, respectively, for the two events.

MUNICIPAL DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT - 2022-23

Table 6: Cost of damages resulting from May and June 2023 Floods

Municipality/ Department	Total Preliminary Damages	Preliminary Shortfall	Verified Total Damages	Contribution/ Reprioritised	Verified Shortfall	Approved funding
Local Government						
Overstrand	R 44 546 661	R 44 546 661	R 4 350 000	R 0	R 4 350 000	R 0
Theewaterskloof	R 1 450 000	R 1 395 000	R 1 450 000	R 55 000	R 1 395 000	R 0
Swartland	R 500 000	R 350 000	R 500 000	R 150 000	R 350 000	R 350 000
Cederberg	R 62 013 900	R 62 013 900	R 8 034 700	R 0	R 8 034 700	R 7 805 000
Langeberg	R 454 000	R 0	R 0	R 454 000	R 0	R 0
Drakenstein	R 55 846 000	R 55 846 000	R 1 901 000	R 1 466 000	R 435 000	R 435 000
Stellenbosch	R 126 500 000	R 5 560 571	R 5 560 571	R 120 939 429	R 5 560 571	R 0
City of Cape Town	R 2 466 500	R 2 206 500	R 2 186 500	R 774 885	R 1 411 615	R 0
Total Amount	R 293 777 061	R 171 918 632	R 23 982 771	R 123 839 314	R 21 536 886	R 8 590 000
Provincial Department						
Infrastructure	R 186 368 000	R 186 368 000	R 186 368 000	R 4 568 000	R 181 800 000	R 0
Agriculture	R 1 053 920 000	R 1 053 920 000	R 518 620 000	R 18 620 000	R 500 000 000	R 0
Total Amount	R 1 240 288 000	R 1 240 288 000	R 704 988 000	R 23 188 000	R 681 800 000	R 0
GRAND TOTAL	R 1 534 065 061	R 1 412 206 632	R 728 970 771	R 147 027 314	R 703 336 886	R 8 590 000

Table 7: Cost of damages resulting from 24-25 September 2023 storm surges

Municipality/ Department	Total Preliminary Damages	Contribution/ Reproritised	Preliminary Shortfall	Verified Shortfall	Approved funding
Garden Route Municipality					
Knysna	R 3 000 000	R 400 000	R 2 600 000	R 2 600 000	R 2 600 000
Hessequa	R 25 000 000	R 1000 000	R 24 000 000	R 31 687 484	R 5 180 000
George	R 4 633 900,60	R 0	R 4 633 900	R 18 133 900,60	R 0
*Oudtshoorn	R 34 134 849	R 0	R 34 134 849	R 34 134 850	R 0
Total Amount	R 32 633 900,6	R 10 400 00	R 31 233 900	R 52 421 384,60	R 7 780 000

Table 8: Cost of damages resulting from 16-17 September 2023 floods

Municipality/ Department	Total Preliminary Damages	Preliminary Shortfall	Verified Total Damages	Contribution/ Reproritised	Verified Shortfall	Approved funding
Local Government						
Overstrand	R 24 538 421	R 24 538 421	R 24 538 421	R 30 000	R 24 508 421	R 12,472,227
Theewaterskloof	R 105 445 149	R 105 445 149	R 105 445 149	R 5 538 190	R 99 906 959	R 41,303,666
Langeberg	R 19 595 000	R 19 595 000	R 19 595 000	R 405 000	R 19 190 000	R 25,730,000
Drakenstein	R 391 000	R 391 000	R 0	R 391 000	R 0	R 0
Stellenbosch	R 98 803 813	R 98 803 813	R 2 959 809	R 95 844 004	R 2 959 809	R 30,131,677
City of Cape Town	R 9 550 000	R 9 500 000	R 7 800 000	R 0	R 7 800 000	R 4,450,000
Total Amount	R 258 323 383	R 258 323 383	R 160 338 379	R 102 208 194	R 154 365 189	R 114,087,570
Provincial Departments						
Infrastructure	R 440 900 000	R 440 900 000	R 766 062 500	R 100 000 000	R 672 742 500	R 0
Agriculture	R 2 290 930 000	R 2 290 930 000	R 431 815 000	R 1 815 000	R 430 000 000	R 0
Total Amount	R 2 731 830 000	R 2 731 830 000	R 119 787 7500	R 101 815 000	R 770 900 000	R 0
GRAND TOTAL	R 2 990 153 383	R 2 990 153 383	R 135 821 5879	R 204 023 194	R 925 265 189	R 114,087,570

5.7.3 Disaster Classifications and Declarations

Numerous flood incidents that affected the province were classified during this reporting period. The NDMC classified the flooding incidents as of May and June 2023, which caused a devastating impact on various municipalities in the province as a provincial state of disaster as promulgated on 21 September 2023, and the September 2023 incidents were collectively classified as a national disaster in October 2023.

5.7.4 Monitoring of funded projects

R47,150,000.00 was allocated to Oudtshoorn for drought intervention through the Municipal Disaster Relief Grant (MDRG) in the 2021-22

financial year. The Oudtshoorn Municipality submitted a rollover application in August 2022 to National Treasury amounting to R37,887,431.35, which was approved. The project was completed in June 2023 and launched in September 2023.

Financial and non-financial performance reports are submitted by all disaster grant funded municipalities to the NDMC through the WC:PDMC to monitor progress on implementation. Quarterly site visits are also conducted to physically visit funded projects and verify the reported progress. The WC:PDMC in collaboration with the NDMC and other relevant role players further convene a Project Steering Committee meeting on a monthly basis to receive verbal progress from funded municipalities, address emerging challenges, and escalate matters requiring strategic intervention.

MUNICIPAL DISASTER RELIEF GRANT (MDRG)		
MUNICIPALITY	DESCRIPTIONS FOR RECOMMENDED PROJECTS	APPROVED FUNDS
Oudtshoorn Municipality	We are equipping existing boreholes (drilled as part of the exploration program) into the Table Mountain aquifer and constructing a 23 km pipeline with a diameter of 315 mm extending it from the Blossoms wellfield to the network in Oudtshoorn.	R 47 150 000
Total	1 project	R 47 150 000

Table 9: Breakdown of Disaster Relief Grant allocated to the Municipalities within the Province during the Financial Year 2021-2022



Figure 63: Launch of the Oudtshoorn Blossoms Water Supply Project

PROVINCIAL DISASTER RELIEF GRANT (PDRG)			
DEPARTMENT	DISTRICTS	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED FUNDS
Department of Agriculture	Garden Route	Provision and distribution of livestock feed	R 15 000 000
	Overberg (Barrydale)		R 1 500 000
	West Coast (Matzikama)		R 15 000 000
	Central Karoo		R 15 000 000
	Cape Winelands (Ceres Karoo)		R 1 600 000
Total			R 48 100 000

Table 10: Breakdown of Disaster Relief Grants allocated to the Sector Departments within the province during the Financial Year 2021-2022

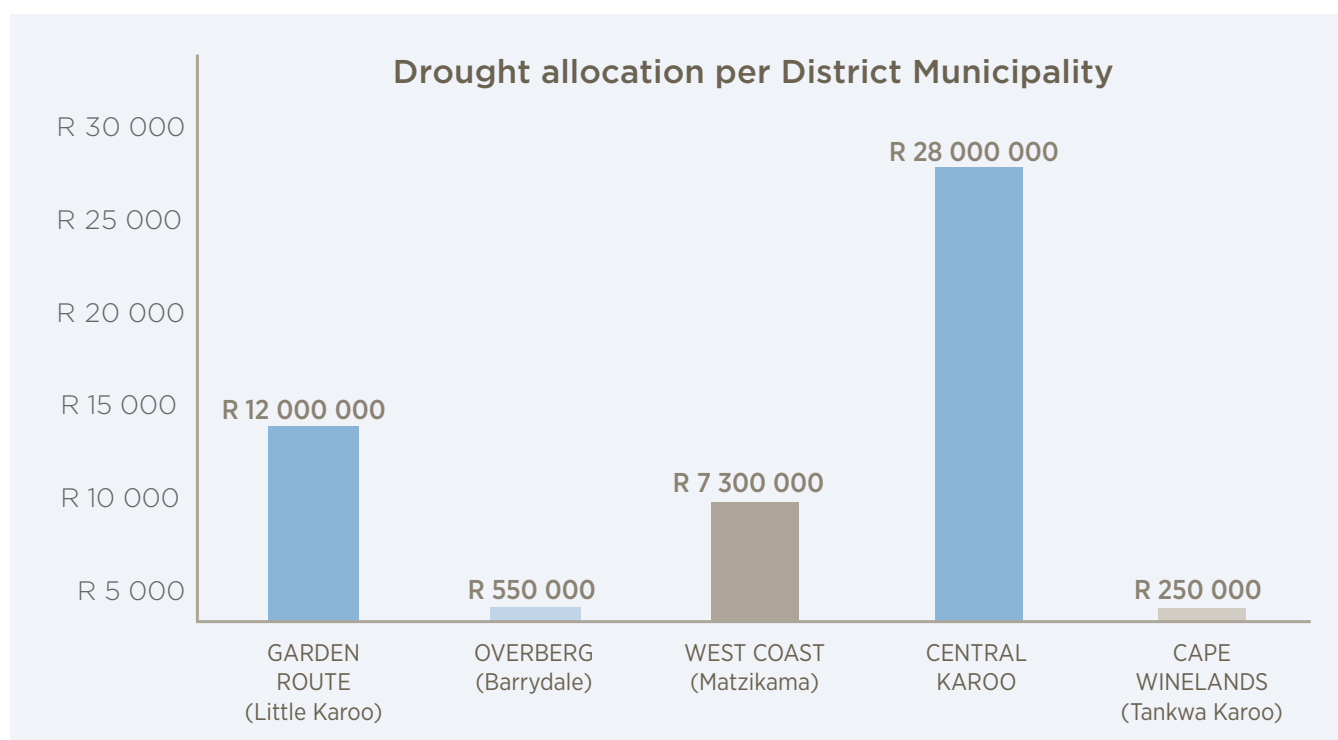


Figure 64: Drought Allocation

The disaster recovery grant funds allocated to the Department of Agriculture and Oudtshoorn Municipality in February 2022, were monitored and evaluated by analysing the implementation plans and compliance certificates. Moreover, the WC:PDMC regularly submitted monthly expenditures, quarterly, and annual progress reports, and close-out reports to the NDMC for all funded projects.

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WC: DoA), to ensure an integrated drought, undertakes biannual disaster assessments to determine, amongst others, the status of the prevailing drought through the evaluation of the

natural veld conditions. The renewed focus on disaster risk reduction initiatives aims to ensure that farmers in the affected regions are better prepared to deal with the province's increase and intensity of disasters. The biannual assessments will form a critical part of the department's early warning system and capacitate the farmers to contribute to a more resilient agriculture sector in the province. Ultimately, the risk assessments allow all relevant stakeholders to exchange ideas and share knowledge and best practices.

Participants in the biannual risk assessments included the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Local Government: Western Cape

Disaster Management Centre, and the Heads of the District Disaster Management Centres for the Central Karoo and Overberg District Municipalities. The visits aimed to determine the progress of the funded projects and the spending of the allocated funds as well as provide assistance with potential challenges likely to be encountered in the timeframe, as per the conditional grants. These are crucial requirements for fulfilling the Disaster Grant Framework conditions. Monitoring funded projects also included visits with the Western Cape

Department of Agriculture (WCDoA) to farms that received fodder relief.

Several biannual assessments and monitoring processes were undertaken in collaboration with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and relevant stakeholders during the reporting period, viz: April 19-22, 2022 and August 29-31, 2022 in the Central Karoo District Municipality, May 23-24, 2022 in the Overberg District Municipality and July 27-28, 2022 in the West Coast respectively.



Figure 65: Engagement with Emerging Farmers: Hoekskuil, Beaufort West and veld condition of farm: Gansevlei, Barrydale



Figure 66: Engagement with Emerging Farmers: Hoekskuil, Beaufort West and Veld condition of farm: Gansevlei, Barrydale



Figure 67: Meeting with Commonage Farmers in Van Rhynsdorp, West Coast District Municipality

The WC:PDMC Recovery unit, in conjunction with the Breede Valley Municipality conducted a site visit of the Zwelethemba access road on 13 February 2023. In summary, the access road to Zwelethemba was damaged during the severe weather event from 29 June 2021 to 21 July 2021. As a result, the Hex River that flows adjacent to Zwelethemba washed the soil away under the access road (Raymond Pollet) bridge leading to Zwelethemba. Raymond Pollet Road is the only access road to Zwelethemba from Worcester. The repairs to reinstate access to Raymond Pollet Road Bridge amounted to R9,909,872.98, excluding the operational cost.



Figure 68: Damaged and Repaired Zwelethemba Bridge, Breede Valley Municipality

5.7.5 Post Disaster Debriefings

The National Disaster Management Framework of 2005, states that comprehensive studies must be conducted routinely after all significant events and events classified as disasters. COVID-19 debriefing has been the focus during this reporting period. The WC:PDMC compiled four reports following each pandemic wave and later combined them into one publication.

According to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases of South Africa (NICD) and the South African resurgence plan, a wave can be defined as the period from when COVID-19 weekly transmissions are equal to or greater than 30 cases per 100,000 persons until the weekly incidence is equivalent to: or below cases per 100,000 persons. As such, the debriefing programme followed this trend. Per the National Disaster Declaration

promulgated in March 2020, several extensions to the declarations were implemented by the NDMC with variable adjusted alert levels based on the severity and resulting behaviour of the pandemic on transmissions. Thus, regulatory adjustments ensued in the trajectory of the pandemic.

These debriefings provided the WC:PDMC with an opportunity to record lessons learnt, challenges, and successes and innovations that the province implemented in managing the effects of the pandemic. The WC:PDMC distributed the four reports to the disaster management fraternity to reflect on the work carried out while advancing future response and readiness strategies. This document further forms the catalyst for identifying research gaps in disasters and, ultimately, findings incorporated into future policy frameworks.

The following findings and recommendations are summarised from the four reports as follows:

Institutional arrangements	Reporting burden	Relationships
<p>Establishing command councils and activating PROVJOINTS to coordinate the pandemic created unnecessary confusion, complexities and misalignment in the provision of the Disaster Management Act. The institutional arrangements implemented before and during the disaster response stages must be considered and clarified through the amendment process of the disaster management policies, laws and framework regarding the powers, functions, and coordination roles.</p>	<p>Multiple structures required reports in different formats, although the content needed was essentially the same. This was identified to be unnecessarily tedious and time-wasting. It is recommended that the cluster approach be a suitable model to foster partnerships and collaborations and should be adopted for all planning and tackling of socio-economic issues. Moreover, there is a need to streamline reporting lines through innovation and ensure that the disaster management centre is the nodal point for coordination and communication.</p>	<p>There needed to be better communication across spheres of government, especially regarding the development of regulations. Thus, there should be a meaningful consultation to expand the pre-disaster planning to ensure a multi-sectoral approach, uniform communication strategy and meaningful talks.</p>

Figure 69: COVID-19 Debriefing: Summary Finding

5.7.6 Disaster Recovery Challenges

The Reconstruction and Rehabilitation disaster grant allocation on the two severe weather events (2021 winter and summer floods) was a lengthy and drawn-out process. The funding allocation was delayed by nearly two years after the first severe event in May 2021. The numerous requests for municipalities to provide already submitted business plans and presentations linked to identified projects were frustrating.

The roll-over application process for unspent funds requires funds to be drawn from the Adjustment Budget before beneficiaries spend the monies. Furthermore, supply chain processes stipulate that municipalities can only use the funding after it is approved by the council and included in their budgets. This process delays the advertising of

tenders for the appointment of contractors and, subsequently, the implementation of Disaster Grants funded projects. Other relevant challenges are listed as follows:

1. Underspending or slow expenditure;
2. Municipalities not submitting required allocation documents timeously;
3. Instability within municipalities;
4. Poor or lack of consistent reporting;
5. Delays in implementation due to statutory obligations (environmental authorization processes); and
6. Impractical implementation period(s).

5.7.7 Disaster Recovery Successes

The method deployed during this process allowed cost-saving through travel and service providers. Due to the debriefing team of personnel of the disaster management centre, the project is not being outsourced, unlike similar projects of this nature, thus substantially saving costs for the department.

The four debriefing reports on the COVID-19 pandemic that were produced during this reporting period and the previous reporting period were combined into one glossy book report and will be disseminated to all the relevant stakeholders and other interested parties on how the Western Cape Province and its partners managed the COVID-19 pandemic. The lessons learned in this report will address future readiness strategies for managing a pandemic.

6

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

6.1 PROVINCIAL FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES CAPACITY

The Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 (Act No. 99 of 1987) (FBA) is the primary legislation regulating fire services and provides for establishing, maintaining, employing, coordinating, and standardising fire brigade services.

The Fire Rescue Services is a dedicated sub-directorate within The Chief Directorate of Disaster Management and Fire and Rescue Services in the WCDLG of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. A deputy director is responsible for the sub-directorate, Fire and Rescue Services, reporting in terms of the line function to the Chief

Director of Disaster Management and Fire and Rescue Services.

The WC:PDMC, as the competent authority, provided for the administration of the FBS Act and concomitant legislation for and on behalf of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape.

6.2 FIRE RESCUE SERVICES FORUMS

The Sub-Directorate Fire Rescue Services supports the secretariat function of the following committees:

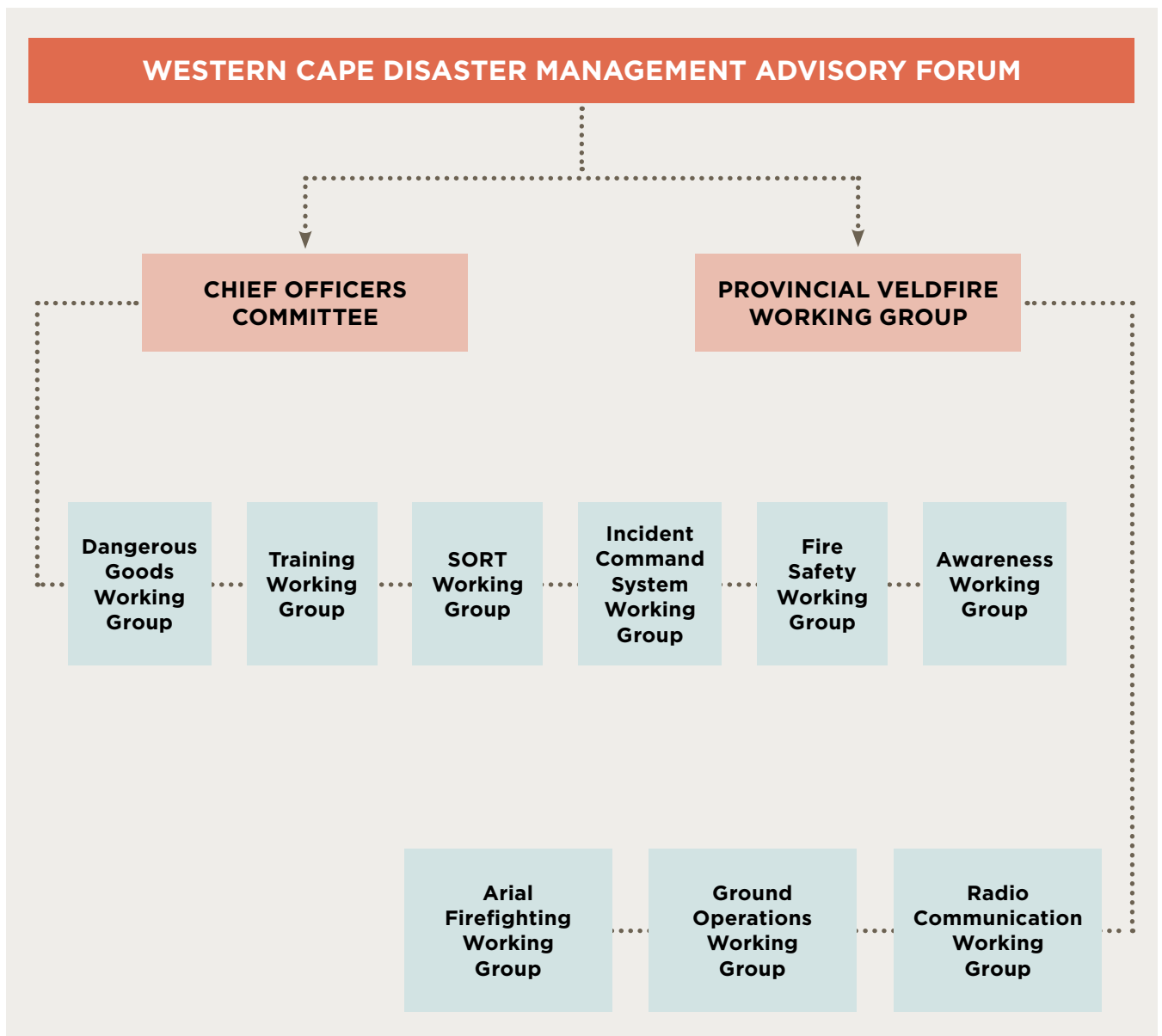


Table 11: Fire Services Forums



Figure 70: Chief Fire Officers Committee

6.3 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

The capacity of fire services varies from one municipality to another. To enhance the capacity of the WC:PDMC, various memorandums of understanding and mutual agreements have been facilitated to assess the status of fire services, raise awareness to mitigate impacts, strengthen urban search and rescue response, and improve communications during fire events.

6.4 INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS DAY

International Firefighters Day was hosted by the Cape Winelands district municipality on 4 May 2023. International Firefighters' Day is observed each year 4 May. On this date, you are invited to remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. At the same time, we can show our support and appreciation to the firefighters worldwide who continue to protect us so well throughout the year.

CURRENT MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

BETWEEN		PURPOSE
WCDLG	Breede Valley Municipality	Urban Search and Rescue Cooperative agreement
WCDLG	Cape Nature	Fire Awareness Campaign
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	West Coast District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Cape Winelands District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Overberg District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Garden Route District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
	Central Karoo District Municipality	Fire and other large-scale events
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	Chevron	Fire and other large-scale events
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	Port of Cape Town	Fire and other large-scale events
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	ESKOM (Koeberg)	Fire and other large-scale events
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	ACSA-Cape Town International Airport	Fire and other large-scale events
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	Denel-munitions	Fire and other large-scale events
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	South African National Parks	Fire and other large-scale events
Cape Winelands District Municipality	Mountains to Oceans/Cape Nature	Fire and other large-scale events
Mossel Bay Municipality	Petro SA	Fire and other large-scale events
WCDLG	Volunteer Wildfire Services NPC	Support Services to WCDLG in the event of fires and large-scale events
WCDLG	Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa (FPASA)	On site surveys of the Fire Stations of the Western Cape
WCDLG	HAMNET	Communication in the event of fires or disasters

Table 12: MOUs and Agreements Between WC:PDMC, and Municipalities

CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

BETWEEN		PURPOSE
WCDLG	NCC Environmental Services	Ground Fire Fighting (3-year contract)
WCDLG	Kishugu Aviation (Pty) Ltd	Aerial Fire Fighting (3-year contract)

Table 13: Service Level Agreements

6.5 WESTERN CAPE VELD FIRE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Fire is a natural and essential ecological process in most of the Western Cape’s fynbos. However, as vividly illustrated, during the past fire seasons, it can also have undesirable social and economic impacts, threatening human health, safety, and property. Balancing the potential benefits and risks of veld and forest fires are complex for land, natural resources, and fire managers. It is also a task that is vital to public safety and the sustainable management of fynbos and catchment areas in the province.

The main objective of this plan is to prepare for an out-of-control wildfire in the defined area. Operational and Safety briefing; General Plan; Objectives; General Command considerations, and Specific Command considerations are just some of the topics covered in the plan.

The Western Cape Provincial Government recognised that a strategic shift is needed to proactively manage the benefits and risks of veld and forest fires to meet the immediate and long-term societal needs and preserve a healthy fynbos ecosystem while protecting our catchment areas. The Western Cape Veld Fire strategic objectives are as follows:

WESTERN CAPE VELD FIRE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES	
1	To establish a well-coordinated early detection and rapid response strategy that is financially sustainable.
2	To develop and maintain a Knowledge Management System that can be used by all spheres of government and other agencies involved with fire management that will ensure well informed decisions relating to fire and fuel load management.
3	To ensure the sustained availability of appropriate fire management resources to efficiently practice integrated fire management in terms of knowledge, personnel, and equipment quality and quantity.
4	To ensure a sustained budget to address the long-term integrated fire management activities, that include alien vegetation management.
5	To develop and strengthen effective partnerships with relevant government bodies, agencies, and departments as well as private entities to support integrated fire management.
6	To ensure that integrated fire management plans protect our critical infrastructure, natural ecosystems, and catchment areas.
7	To develop awareness strategies that will raise awareness of the importance of integrated fire management at an organisational, municipal, and provincial level to reduce the incidence of ignitions and property loss.

Table 14: Western Cape Veld Fire Strategy Objectives

6.6 TRAINING

It is important for the WC:PDMC to build capacity through skills development to ensure that municipalities are equipped with the required

knowledge and skills to improve their fire services capability. The WC:PDMC facilitated various training sessions, reaching 265 people.

COURSE NAME	FROM	TO	VENUE	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Fire and Risk Assessment	18 September 2023	22 September 2023	Online	25
Fundamentals of Design and Evaluation	17 July 2023	24 July 2023	Online	25
Peace Officers	6 November 2023	14 November 2023	Online	15
Examination of Building Plans	19 June 2023	23 June 2023	In Person	25
Fire Safety Legislation	29 May 2023	6 June 2023	Online	25
Interpretation and Application of Local Authority Bylaws	21 August 2023	29 August 2023	Combination of Online and In Person	25
Planning Section Chief	16 October 2023	19 October 2023	In Person	25
Situational Unit Leader	9 October 2023	13 October 2023	In Person	25
Logistics Section Chief	16 October 2023	20 October 2023	In Person	25
Type 2 - All Hazard Incident Management Training Exercise	31 October 2023	3 November 2023	In Person	50

Table 15: Fire Training Statistics



Figure 72: Planning Section Chief Training

6.7 INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The project seeks to provide aerial support and ground firefighting support to the District Fire Services. The objective is to develop and maintain a specialised, proactive and reactive response capability to wildfires in the Western Cape. The sub-directorate also hosts the opening of a Summer Fire Readiness event during the first week of December at the Stellenbosch Airstrip.



Figure 73: Opening of Fire Readiness Event

6.8 FIRE RESPONSE

The Western Cape Province is required to have a tender in place for the provision of aerial firefighting support during the high fire season which is from 1 December up to and including the 31 March each year. This has been determined through years of evidence where it has been shown to have the most fires during the summer season in the province. However, some regions experience intense fires outside of this period and the remainder of the year are referred to “as and when required” namely from 1 April up to and including 30 November (low fire season) and requires coverage.

A tender has been put in place to provide aerial support over a three-year period to provide aerial support to prevent the spread of fires, with the focus being on the initial first hour attack to stop the spread of fires. This tender was implemented as of 1 April 2023 for a three year period. The previous tender expired on 31 March 2024. Therefore there was a smooth transition as the project was coordinated to ensure that the Western Cape would have sufficient aerial support.

Approval was put forward for an appointment of one (1) Type 1 Interagency Wildland Firefighting crew consisting of 10 members, specially trained in wildfire suppression tactics, for a 3-year recurring contract (2022 until 2025). The crew will be available and on standby during the four-month high fire season (1 December until 31 March). During low fire season (1 April until 30 November), the crew will be available and on standby for high-level incidents. We are currently in the last year of this tender, which expires at the end of 2025.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE PER DISTRICT TO DATE

COCT	WEST COAST DM	OVERBERG DM	GARDEN ROUTE DM	CAPE WINELANDS DM	CENTRAL KAROO DM	SUBTOTAL
R 19,651.07	R 115,813.36	R 221,569.56	R 257,191.79	R 43,932.76		
R 45,796.31	R 289,222.21	R 224,190.38	R 126,933.86	R 189,707.25		
R 69,454.85	R 179,714.38	R 167,818.84	R 81,937.71	R 198,489.28		
R 56,853.65	R 154,758.14	R 204,940.48	R 83,192.19	R 237,813.78		
R 54,529.89	R 87,854.91	R 215,339.30	R 196,342.91	R 217,564.26		
R 56,104.58		R 122,252.53	R 215,325.66	R 181,647.61		
R 76,707.26		R 117,917.81		R 173,647.12		
R 70,722.70		R 93,689.08		R 178,610.40		
R 143,234.83		R 177,107.31		R 174,115.65		
R 67,244.40		R 103,875.99		R 170,526.36		
R 71,237.79		R 64,149.86		R 197,399.32		
R 64,003.77		R 10,766.95		R 154,232.65		
R 55,892.66		R 94,372.00		R 173,147.09		
R 76,078.85		R 119,348.59		R 234,043.27		
R 61,153.88		R 143,951.19		R 185,869.44		
R 75,965.54		R 120,070.78				
R 55,911.05						
R 1,120,543.08	R 827,363.00	R 2,201,360.65	R 960,924.12	R 2,710,746.24	R 0	R 7,820,985.09

Table 16: Aerial Budget Expenditure per District for 2023/24

6.9 FIRE SERVICE CAPACITY BUILDING

The Fire Service Capacity Building initiative aims to provide funds to municipalities for hazardous material as well as the flood response equipment capacity along the major routes and firefighting

capacity across the province. The WC:PDMC provided the following funding during the reporting year:

Gazette	Grant	Municipality	Amount
8730 dated 14 March 2023	Fire Service Capacity Grant	Witzenberg	985,000.00
		Drakenstein	985,000.00
		Breedde Valley	1, 103,000.00
		Oudtshoorn	1, 911, 000.00
		Garden Route	4,481,000.00
		West Coast	1,426,000.00
		Bergrivier	926,000.00
		Swartland	926,000.00
		Cape Winelands	500,000.00
		Overberg	500,000.00
		Garden Route	2,500,000.00
		Central Karoo	500,000.00
		TOTAL	R 11,743,000.00

Table 17: Fire Service Capacity Building

6.9.1 Smoke Alarm Campaign

The project’s main objective is to identify, purchase, and install the most appropriate smoke alarm for high-risk environments and occupancies. Municipal Fire and Rescue Services staff will develop operational guidelines for the individual smoke alarm installation programmes consistent with the municipality’s fire prevention policy. The activities associated with the smoke alarm installation programme include a combination of the following:

- providing smoke alarm and home fire escape planning information;
- providing or replacing smoke alarms and/or batteries;

- promoting regular testing and maintenance of smoke alarms;
- encouraging residents to regularly maintain their smoke alarms;
- educating residents about the smoke alarms;
- effectively tracking and evaluating the smoke alarm installation programme; and
- modifying the programme where necessary to ensure success.

This was the first year that the Department made use of grants in order to procure standardised smoke alarms across the province.

Gazette	Grant	Municipality	Amount
8866 dated 16 January 2023	Municipal Service Delivery Capacity Building Grant	Saldanha Bay	500,000.00
		Drakenstein	500,000.00
		Overstrand	500,000.00
		Garden Route	500,000.00
		Swartland	500,000.00
		Langeberg	500,000.00
		TOTAL	R 11,743,000.00

Table 18: Municipalities allocated Municipal Service Delivery Grants for Procurement of Smoke Alarms 2023/24

7. CONCLUSION

The Provincial Disaster Management Annual Report was developed by the management of the Provincial Disaster Management Centre under the guidance of Mr. G Paulse, HOD of Local Government, and Mr. A. Bredell, the Provincial Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

The report examines the activities from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. In recent years, the Western Cape has seen a significant increase in the severity and frequency of disaster incidents, which damaged roads, the agricultural sector, and various areas across the province.

The department's coordination role in ensuring public safety, protecting the environment, and maintaining infrastructure is noteworthy. We highly appreciate the commitment of all governmental and non-governmental partners who passionately serve the people. In a challenging fiscal climate,

forming partnerships with NGOs and the private sector to drive initiatives in municipalities is not just crucial, but also a testament to the value we place on our partners. This requires a strategic shift in reducing, mitigating, and preparing for disasters.

A provincial disaster was declared for the severe weather events in June 2023, while a national classification was published in the government gazette for the September 2023 severe weather event. Recovering from these disaster events has placed a significant financial strain on municipalities and sector departments. We understand the challenges they are facing, especially given the frequency and severity of such events, as well as tight fiscal environments.

The department intends to continue investing in risk reduction measures to build resilience in the province, support municipalities in their mandates, and advocate for an all-society approach.

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