The background of the cover is a photograph of a rural landscape. It features rolling hills with golden-brown grass, a small barn with a red roof, and a few trees. The sky is a mix of blue and green, suggesting a clear day. Overlaid on the image are several large, wavy, semi-transparent green shapes that create a sense of movement and depth. The text is centered and uses a clean, sans-serif font.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2020/2025**

**MANGUANG
METRO MUNICIPALITY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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ABBREVIATIONS

APAP	-	Agricultural Policy Action Plan
CRDP	-	Comprehensive Rural Development Programme
DARD	-	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DALRRD	-	Department of Agricultural, Land Reform and Rural Development
DRDLR	-	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
EPPP	-	Extended Public Participation Process
HA	-	Hectare
IDP	-	Integrated Development Plan
IOP	-	Integrated Operational Plan
IPAP	-	Industrial Policy Action Plan
LM	-	Local Municipality
MMM	-	Mangaung Metro Municipality
MRDP	-	Mangaung Rural Development Plan
MTSF	-	Medium Term Strategic Framework
NDP	-	National Development Plan
NGP	-	New Growth Path
RDP	-	Rural Development Plan
SDF	-	Spatial Development Framework
SONA	-	State of the Nation's Address
SPLUMA	-	Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, No. 16 of 2013

1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 PREAMBLE

Most rural communities in South Africa are characterized by extreme levels of poverty, underdevelopment and a lack of economic opportunities. In addition, the spatially fragmented patterns of rural areas cause people living in rural areas to have limited access to basic social and services infrastructure.

Rural Development has been one of the key concerns for National Government since the dawn of democracy in 1994, which is why the President of the Republic of South Africa has, during 2009, mandated the then Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) to formulate Rural Development Programmes for the impoverished and underdeveloped rural parts of South Africa. This soon led to the adoption of the **Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)** by cabinet and serves as overarching policy guideline for the DRDLR.

By September 2011, the DRDLR has identified the most impoverished areas in the country, and in order to facilitate urgent intervention in these areas, said department has initiated the formulation of **Rural Development Plans (RDPs)**, targeted at enhancing intensified government investment, as well as improving the livelihoods of people living under such poor circumstances in rural areas.

Subsequently, agriculture has been identified as one of the key sectors for rural economic transformation, which resulted in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) being requested to collaborate with the DRDLR by implementing an Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP). This Plan aims to bring under-utilized land into full production and was specifically intended to achieve the objectives of both the New Growth Path (NGP) and the National Development Plan (NDP) by identifying agriculture as an important sector in creating employment, ensuring food security, alleviate poverty and ultimately development of rural areas.

Simultaneously with this mandate of DRDLR to assist with identifying opportunities and realizing the potential of rural spaces, Municipalities also have a constitutional responsibility to ensuring the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner, as well as to promoting social and economic development and creating a safe and healthy environment. In terms of the **Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, No.16 of 2013 (SPLUMA)**, spatial planning and land development should not exclude rural areas, but should address the integration of rural areas into the spatial, social, economic and environmental objectives of local government.

The municipal area of the **Mangaung Metro Municipality (MMM)** has also been identified as one of the most impoverished areas in the country, owing to its inheritance of a largely rural landscape when the Naledi Local Municipality was incorporated into its area of jurisdiction. Consequently, the former DRDLR, the former DAFF and MMM have partnered in compiling a RDP for the Municipality. DRDLR's and DAFF meanwhile amalgamated and are now known as the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

1.2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This plan is a first of its kind for a Metro and serves the strategic development direction for creating sustainable development and improving the livelihoods of people living in rural areas. The purpose of a Rural Development Plan (RDP) is to alleviate extreme poverty and to provide a uniform approach that will direct all development in the rural area. This was done through a common vision shared amongst all stakeholders, the setting of clear objectives and the formulation of realistic strategies and programs that will ensure focused spending and effective implementation.

The intention was to identify functional regions throughout Mangaung and to establish economic linkages manifested in detailed plans. The Mangaung Metro RDP will be linked to certain segments which are arranged to meeting basic needs, infrastructure development, emerging rural industrial and credit financial sectors driven by micro to macro scale enterprise markets (economic activities) and land reform.

The RDP will furthermore ensure better coordination and alignment in the planning systems through effective integration of the three spheres of government, as well as the different sector departments. It is therefore essential that the plan aligns with National and Provincial legislation and Policies.

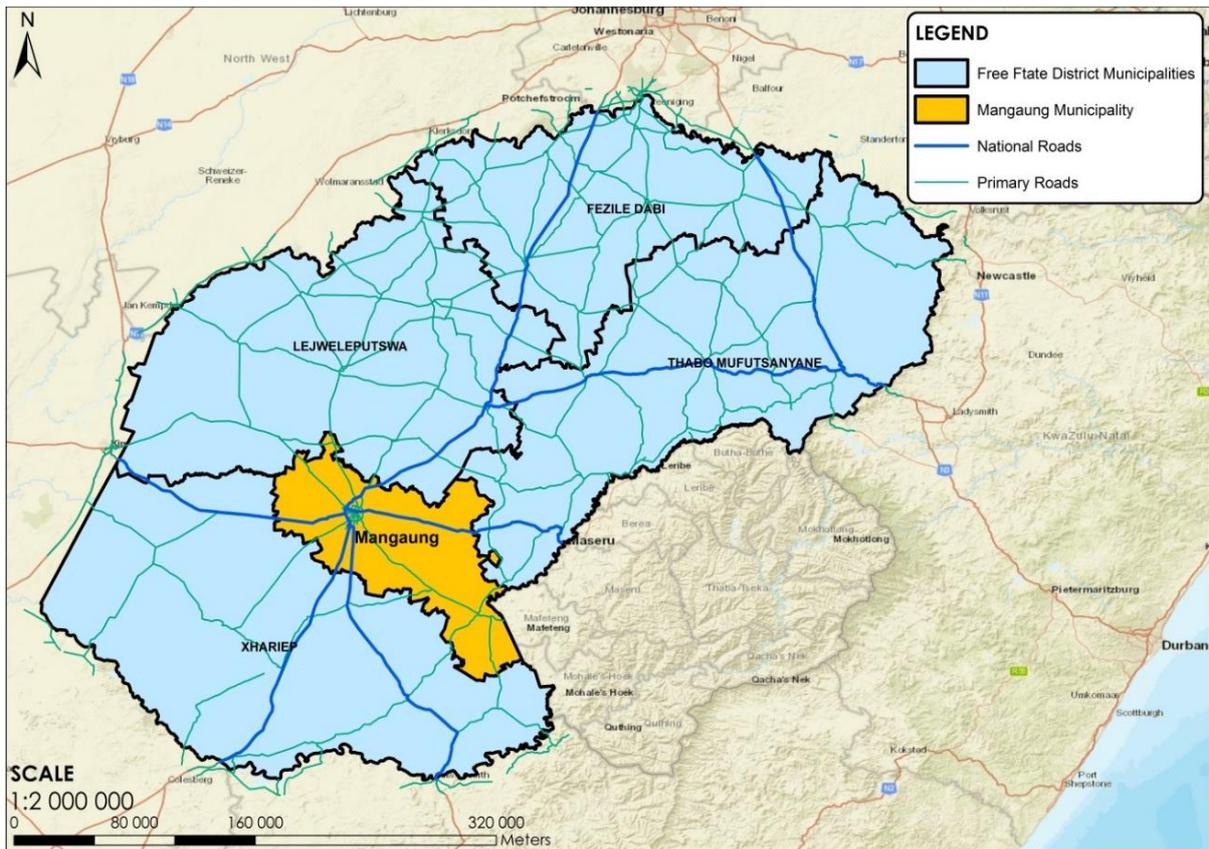
Finally, the Mangaung Rural Development Plan (MRDP) should be regarded as one of the sector plans of the MMM, which must form part the Municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Spatial Development Framework (SDF). The plan will serve as an instrument to facilitate structured implementation of different rural orientated projects and programs, funded by especially the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department of Agriculture, as well as several other government structures.

1.3 STUDY AREA OVERVIEW

Provincially, Mangaung is bordered by the Xhariep, Lejweleputswa and Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipalities, as well as Lesotho located to the east. The Metro houses the capital of the province, namely Bloemfontein, which serves as the economic and administrative hub of the Free State, whilst also being the Judicial Capital of South Africa.

The former Mangaung Municipality was established in 2000 with the amalgamation of four former transitional councils. Mangaung became a Metro Municipality after the elections of 18 May 2011 and was extended further during 2016 by the inclusion of Naledi Local Municipality and part of Masilonyana Local Municipality (Soutpan area).

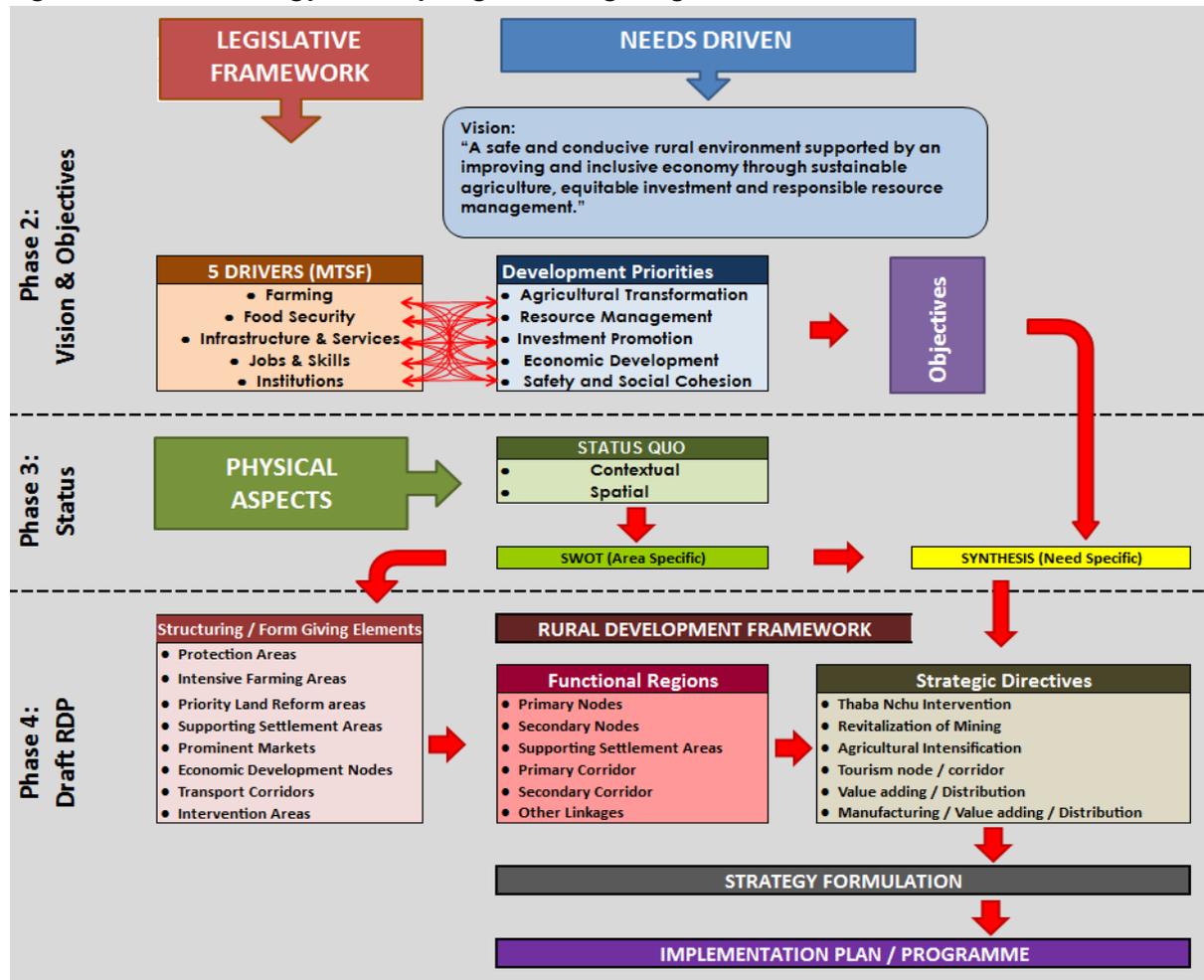
Map 1.1: Mangaung Location



1.4 METHODOLOGY

The methodology in formulating the RDP is set out in **Figure 1.1** below. The outcome is derived from three main streams, being that of the existing legislative environment, the needs and concerns of the rural population as pointed out during the extended community participation process, and finally several physical facts and figures depicting the composition of the study area.

Figure 1.1: Methodology in compiling the Mangaung Metro RDP



The process is furthermore subjected to a three-phased approach whereby the outcome of the previous phases forms the basis of the next phase. The vision and objectives were derived from consulting the legislative framework, as well as from a needs driven analyses which included the community participation programme. The status quo phase primarily focused on physical aspects representing the contextual and spatial features of Mangaung, and was concluded by means of a SWOT analyses, which linked the development priorities with the form giving elements through a synthesis. Finally, the RDP is concluded with the demarcation of functional regions, proposed development strategies and projects, whereby the implementation thereof forms part of the Implementation Plan.

2

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

This Chapter comprises two main components, being the legislative framework analysed in the process of compiling the Rural Development Plan (RDP), and the process in formulating the vision and objectives of the RDP.

2.1 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The legislative framework is divided into two components, whereby certain legislation were analysed for alignment purposes, and another set of legislation were used as drivers in formulating the Mangaung RDP.

2.1.1 Policy Alignment

In order to ensure a clear policy basis for rural development, it is important to ensure alignment between the Mangaung Rural Development Plan (MRDP) and the existing legislative framework from the three spheres of government, namely National, Provincial and Local. **Table 2.1** below, provides a summary of the legislation analysed, having the most important impact on rural development.

Table 2.1: Legislative Framework

National	Provincial	Local
National Development Plan (NDP) 2030	The Free State Agricultural Master Plan	The Integrated Development Plan
New Growth Path (NGP)	The Free State Spatial Development Framework	Built Environment Performance Plan
Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP)	The Free State Biodiversity Plan	Integrated Human Settlement Plan
Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP)	The Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy	Environmental Implementation and Management Plan and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy
New Economic Growth Path 2011		Integrated Waste Management Plan
Comprehensive Rural Development Programme 2009		Ten - Year Water Conservation and Water Demand Management Strategy
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996		Integrated Public Transport Network Plan
Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013		Financial Recovery Plan

2.1.2 Policy Drivers

The main **policy drivers** utilized in compilation of the Mangaung RDP are:

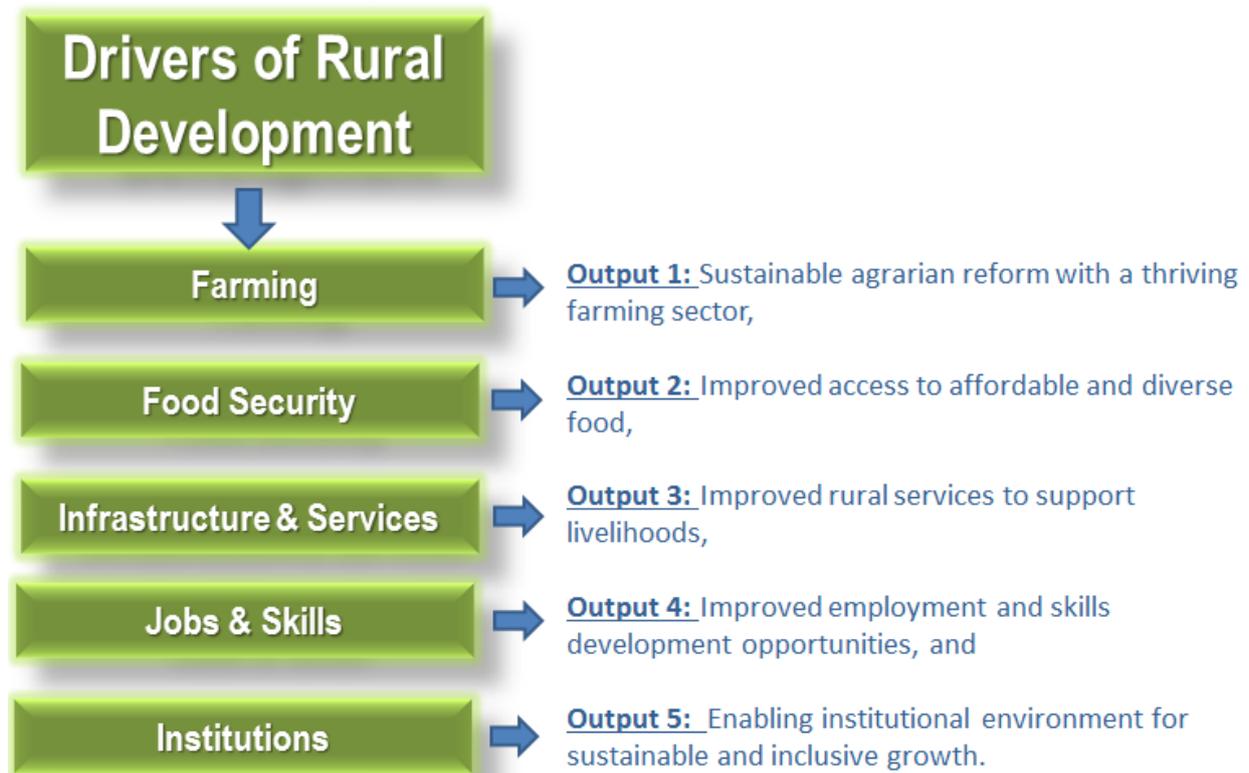
- The Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF);
- The Mangaung Integrated Development Plan (IDP);
- The Seven Presidential Priorities revealed during the State of The Nation Address on 20 June 2019 (SONA, 2019).

2.1.2.1 Medium Terms Strategic Framework

The Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) defines the objectives, targets and main priorities underpinning the strategic direction of government. The MTSF therefore serves as the principal guide to the planning and the allocation of resources across all spheres of government.

Consistent with the NDP, National Government's MTSF outlines 12 priority outcomes that are relevant to all facets of civil society. "**Outcome 7**" is of particular importance, as it focuses on creating "**Vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all**". Furthermore, Outcome 7 identifies outputs and targets that are linked to five main drivers for rural development, as indicated in the figure below. These drivers are used to fast track service delivery in rural areas, and seek to ensure that the rural community's quality of life, access to quality services, livelihoods and income are improved.

Figure 2.1: Development Agenda as provided by the MTSF



2.1.2.2 Mangaung Integrated Development Plan & Spatial Development Framework

In the Mangaung Integrated Development Plan (IDP), the municipality commits itself to "creating prosperous, livable and inclusive living spaces with abundant social and recreational amenities", which stands core to the Mangaung Rural Development Plan.

The IDP identifies nine (9) key development priorities, as indicated in the figure below, which have been regenerated into a five (5) point strategic development review (SDR).

Figure 2.2: Mangaung IDP Development Agenda



Source: Mangaung IDP (2019/2020:80)

Furthermore, the Mangaung Spatial Development Framework (SDF) forms an extension to the IDP and serves to be the main intervention tool as far as spatial restructuring is concerned. The SDF promotes a compact city model, which is based on principles relating to settlement integration and densification. The SDF aims to:

- Supporting an efficient movement system;
- Supporting sustainable Environmental Management;
- Initiating and implementing Corridor Development;
- Managing Urban Growth and densification;
- Delineating an urban development boundary; and
- Facilitating sustainable housing environments in appropriate locations.

2.1.2.3 Presidential Priorities

During his State of the Nation Address (SONA) delivered on 20 June 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced seven key priorities that government ought to concentrate on.

Although these priorities do not relate to rural development *per se*, they are indeed relevant to providing direction and formulating an overall vision. The seven priorities are depicted in the table below:

Table 2.2: Seven Presidential Priorities from the SONA 2019

Number	Priority
Priority no. 1	Economic transformation and job creation
Priority no. 2	Education, skills and health
Priority no. 3	Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
Priority no. 4	Spatial integration, human settlements and local government
Priority no. 5	Social cohesion and safe communities
Priority no. 6	A capable, ethical and developmental state
Priority no. 7	A better Africa and World

2.2 TOWARDS A VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Since the MRDP is the first compiled for a Metro Municipality in South Africa (SA), an Extended Public Participation Process (EPPP) was followed to ensure thorough community participation.

This enabled workshops to take place, in clusters, throughout the municipal area, as illustrated in the figure to the right.

Community members in each of these clusters were invited to the workshops held, in order to share their concerns and aspirations.

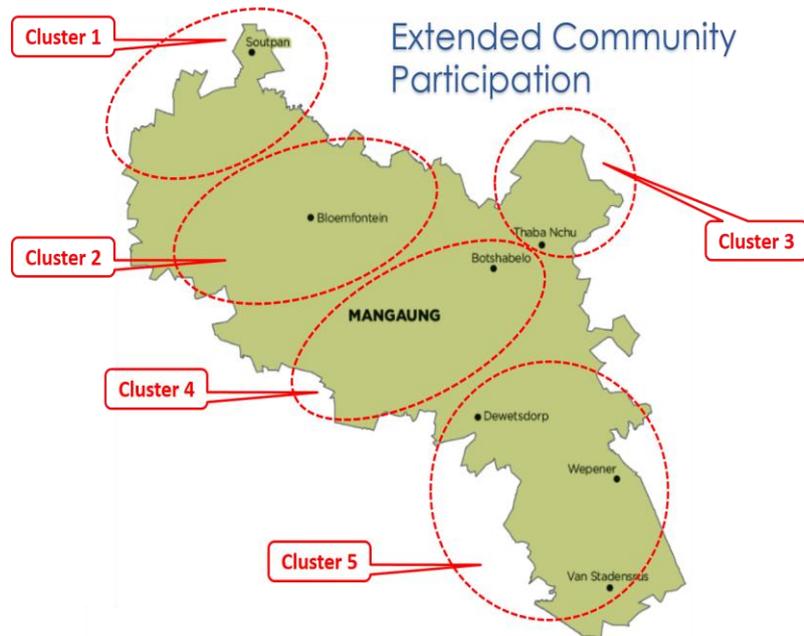


Figure 2.3: Cluster areas for the community participation areas

2.2.1 Vision Formulation

Due to the current negative trends being experienced in rural areas (depopulation, poverty, underdevelopment, lack of economic opportunities, lack of social services and infrastructure, etc.), and given the various challenges that exist in addressing these trends, it is important to create a common point of departure for the Rural Development Plan, namely the **Vision**.

The vision will therefore describe the expected long term goal for rural development, whilst the objectives that follow will describe what is to be achieved in this space. The following vision was formulated for the Mangaung RDP.

“A safe and conducive rural environment supported by an improving and inclusive economy through sustainable agriculture, equitable investment and responsible resource management.”

2.2.2 Formulating Development Objectives

After consultation with the community and considering the legislative framework, the following ten common themes emerged, which were grouped into five key elements that formed the basis for the development priorities, as indicated on the following page.

Table 2.3: Common themes and key elements

Common Themes derived from focus areas	Key Elements for Vision
1. Improved access to land to support farming;	<u>Agricultural transformation</u> stands central to sustainable rural development, which includes aspects such as access to land and food security.
2. Sustainable rural development through agricultural transformation that ensures food security;	
3. Optimal use of natural resources and environmental management;	The combination of these refers to <u>responsible resource management</u> .
4. Infrastructure support and investment;	<u>Investment</u> in infrastructure, social facilities and human capital (skills) is needed, but it is more important to create a <u>progressive</u> or <u>conducive environment</u> to attract or make such investment possible.
5. Social facilities improvement and investment;	
6. Human capital investment and skills development,	
7. A growing economy that generates jobs and reduces poverty;	These concepts points to a desired outcome that relates to a <u>progressive economy</u> , or <u>economic prosperity</u> .
8. Development of value chains and creation of new markets;	
9. Ensuring a higher level of safety and security; and	Ensuring a <u>safe</u> and <u>inclusive</u> environment.
10. Improved institutional relations.	

Having identified the five development priorities, as discussed in more detail below, objectives for each priority were compiled, against which strategies and projects were formulated. These development priorities thus form the backbone of the Mangaung RDP.

Table 2.4: Development Priorities and Objectives

Development Priorities	Objectives
1. Agricultural Transformation	1.1 Ensure sufficient food production.
	1.2 Enhance access to agricultural sector and use more intensive production systems.
	1.3 Effectively harness the agricultural knowledge to optimize food production.
	1.4 Increase number and quality of value adding operations in the metro.
2. Resource Management	2.1 Improving production capacity by identifying land with most agricultural potential.
	2.2 Ensure the protection of natural resources to the benefit of the entire area dependant thereon.
3. Investment Promotion	3.1 Ensure the provision of much needed infrastructure and social facilities.
	3.2 Ensuring the optimal operation of functional areas at strategic locations to serve as catalysts within the rural environment.
	3.3 Ensure skills development at a young age in respect of farming practices.

Development Priorities	Objectives
	3.4 Improve public knowledge and general awareness in respect of agriculture, rural development programmes and products.
4. Economic Development	4.1 Stimulate development of new business orientated entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector.
	4.2 Ensure the creation of formal and informal employment in primary and secondary agriculture.
	4.3 Ensure improvement of formal and informal marketing channels.
	4.4 Ensure the development of more value chains and agri-industries at strategic locations.
	4.5 Identify new product lines and production techniques through research and development.
5. Safety and Social Cohesion	5.1 Implementation of suitable crime prevention mechanisms to ensure the safety and security of residents and animals.
	5.2 Implementation of suitable mechanisms that will ensure a mutual spirit of Ubuntu amongst all residence, communities and institutions to demonstrate good governance.

3

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The process to conduct a spatial analysis on the study area forms a crucial component in compiling a viable Rural Development Plan (RDP). This process enables one to comprehend what the spatial characteristics are, to identify socio-economic trends, and to determine how these factors interlink with one another.

Analysing the results from this phase, together with that of the needs driven basis (which forms part of the mythological approach), provides a platform for the RDP to ultimately create specific strategies and programs designed to enhance the livelihoods of the rural community.

The figure to the right illustrates the process of how the spatial analyses is unpacked, whereby two components in trends/patterns and physical features are combined to direct the RDP into demarcating functional regions on which the proposed strategies and programmes are based on.

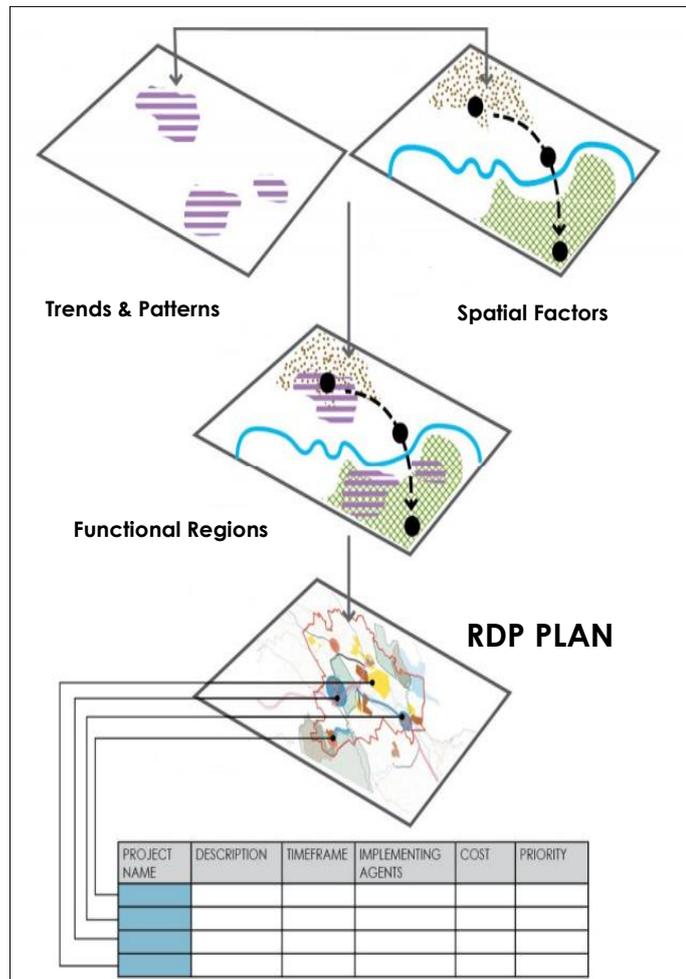


Figure 3.1: Spatial Mapping Process and Contribution

3.1 BROAD OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA

Mangaung covers an area of **11,331 km²**, which comprises seven urban centres as indicated in the table below, and spatially illustrated in **Map 3.1** on the following page. In terms of land units as well as population figures, Bloemfontein and Botshabelo are the biggest nodes in the Metro, however, when considering coverage (land size), the majority of the area ($\pm 97\%$) are farms portions. It is therefore clear that the Municipality consists of a vast rural area.

Table 3.1: Number and size of land units in MMM

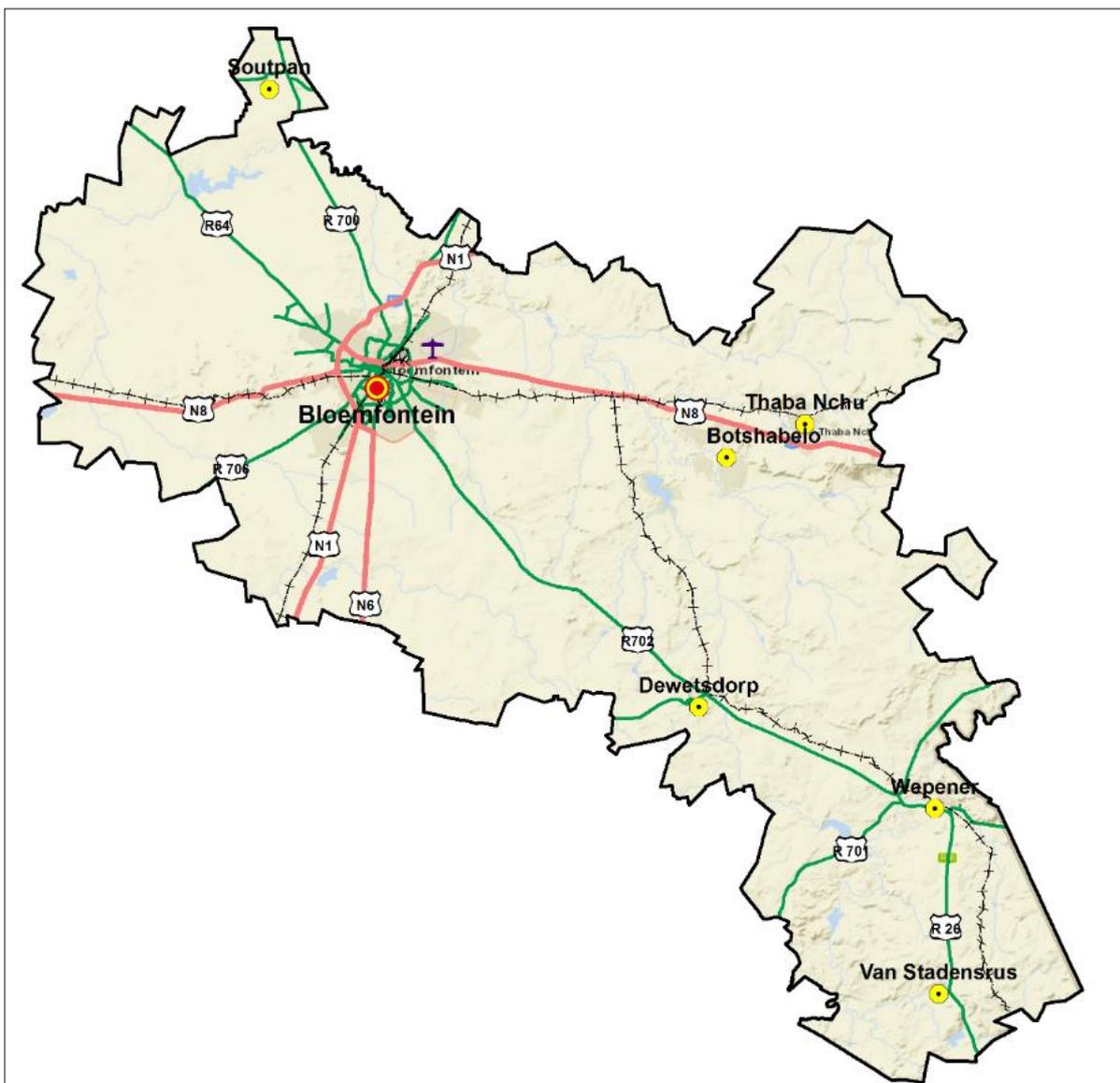
Land Use Type	Area	Land Units		Size	
		No.	(%)	Km ²	(%)
Formal Stands (Urban Area)	Bloemfontein	123,769	55.24%	117.96	1.04%
	Botshabelo	57,695	25.75%	38.57	0.35%
	Thaba Nchu	22,794	10.17%	23.78	0.22%
	Soutpan	1,212	0.54%	1.08	0.01%
	Dewetsdorp	3,770	1.68%	2.85	0.03%
	Wepener	4,496	2.01%	4.43	0.04%
	Van Stadensrus	927	0.41%	1.14	0.01%
Small Holdings (Bfn only)		3,176	1.42%	130.54	1.19%
Farms		6,205	2.77%	11,011.27	97.17%
TOTAL		224,044	100%	11,331.62	100%

Mangaung is furthermore well serviced in terms of transport/movement corridors, as depicted in the table below and spatially illustrated in **Map 3.1** thereafter.

Table 3.2: Transport/Movement corridors in MMM

Roads		
National	N1	Linking Bloemfontein with Gauteng and Western Cape
	N6	Linking Bloemfontein with the Eastern Cape
	N8	Linking Bloemfontein with Lesotho and Northern Cape
Primary	R30 & M30	Connection roads between national routes
	R64	Connecting Bloemfontein with Dealesville to the north-west
	R700	Connecting Bloemfontein with Soutpan to the north
	R702	Connecting Bloemfontein with Dewetsdorp to the south-east
	R706	Connecting Bloemfontein with Jagersfontein to the south-west
Rail Network		
Passenger	Connecting with Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban and Maseru	
Freight	Linking Bloemfontein with Johannesburg and East London	
Airport		
Bram Fisher	Flights are directed to Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, George, and Sishen	
Tempe	Also provides MMM with flight services	
Thaba Nchu	No longer operational	

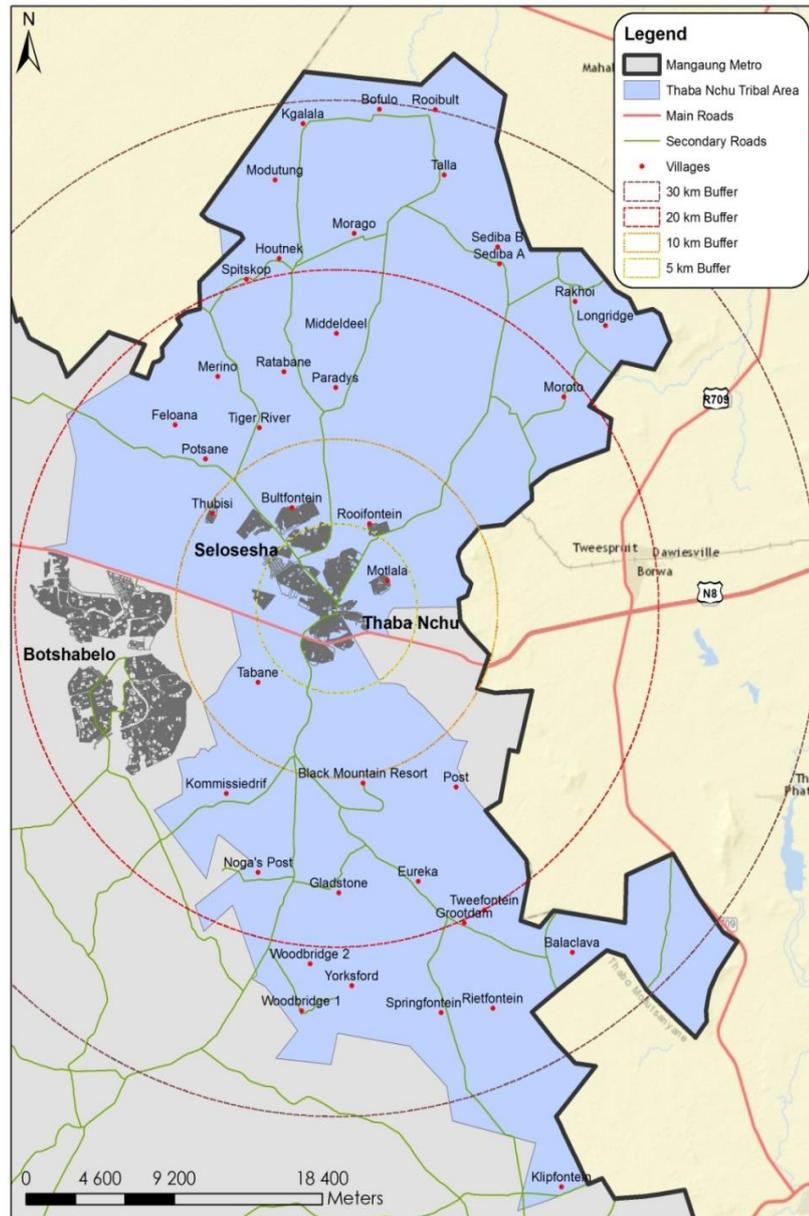
Map 3.1: Mangaung Urban Centres and Movement Corridors



Soutpan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most northern node in MMM; • Home to anthropological proclaimed area (Florisbad).
Bloemfontein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th largest city in SA; • Capital city of FS Province; • Judicial capital of SA.
Thaba Nchu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ± 70 km east of Bloemfontein; • Home to a Tribal Area of ± 82 000 ha.
Botshabelo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ± 55 km east of Bloemfontein; • Second largest population in MMM.
Dewetsdorp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ± 80 km south-east of Bloemfontein; • Located near R702 road (Battlefields route).
Wepener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ± 120km south-east of Bloemfontein; • In close proximity to Lesotho border (tourist potential).
Van Stadensrus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most southern node in MMM; • In close proximity to Caledon Nature Reserve.

In addition to the urban centres, MMM is also home to an area of ± 82,000 hectares, which is Tribal Land under Traditional Leadership. This area comprises a total of 37 rural villages which are scattered throughout said area, however, in relative close proximity to urban Thaba Nchu, as indicated in **Map 3.2**.

Each village was carefully analysed to determine what social amenities are present and whether the village is growing or is stagnant, ultimately providing clarity as to what the needs for the villages are. The results from this survey are further discussed in **Chapter 4** of this executive summary.



Map 3.2: Thaba Nchu Tribal Areas

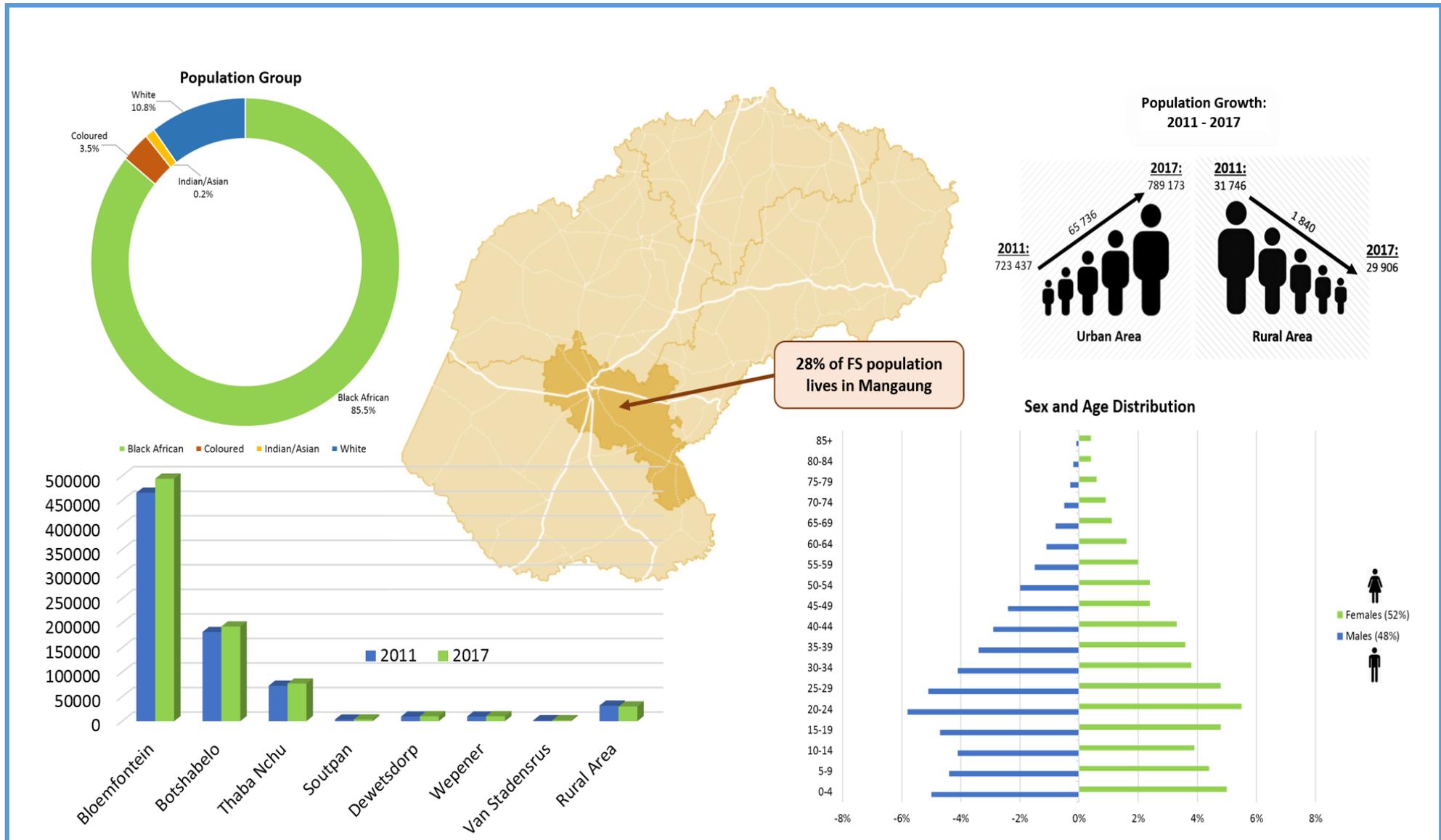
3.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

It is important to analyse the Socio-Economic Profile of the study area in order to:

- Determine population, education, economic and settlement trends;
- Identify vulnerable groups as well as poverty pockets; and to
- Create strategies and programmes, based on the abovementioned, which will ultimately enhance the livelihoods of people living in the area.

Figure 3.2 below analyses the population of MMM, which is discussed in further detail thereafter.

Figure 3.2: Socio-Economic Profile



The following points were derived from analysing **Figure 3.2** above:

- Mangaung is experiencing a steady population growth in urban areas, however, a decline in rural areas;
- The majority of the population is aged between 15 – 34 years old;
- 52% of the population is of the female gender;
- 85.5% of the population is of the Black African ethnic group, followed by the White ethnic group comprising 10.8% thereof; and
- The MMM accommodates \pm 28% of the entire provincial population, the majority of whom resides in Bloemfontein (\pm 60%), followed by Botshabelo (\pm 24%).

Figures 3.3 and 3.4 below analyses the demographic profile of MMM, and is discussed in further detail thereafter.

Figure 3. 3: MMM Demographic Profile 1

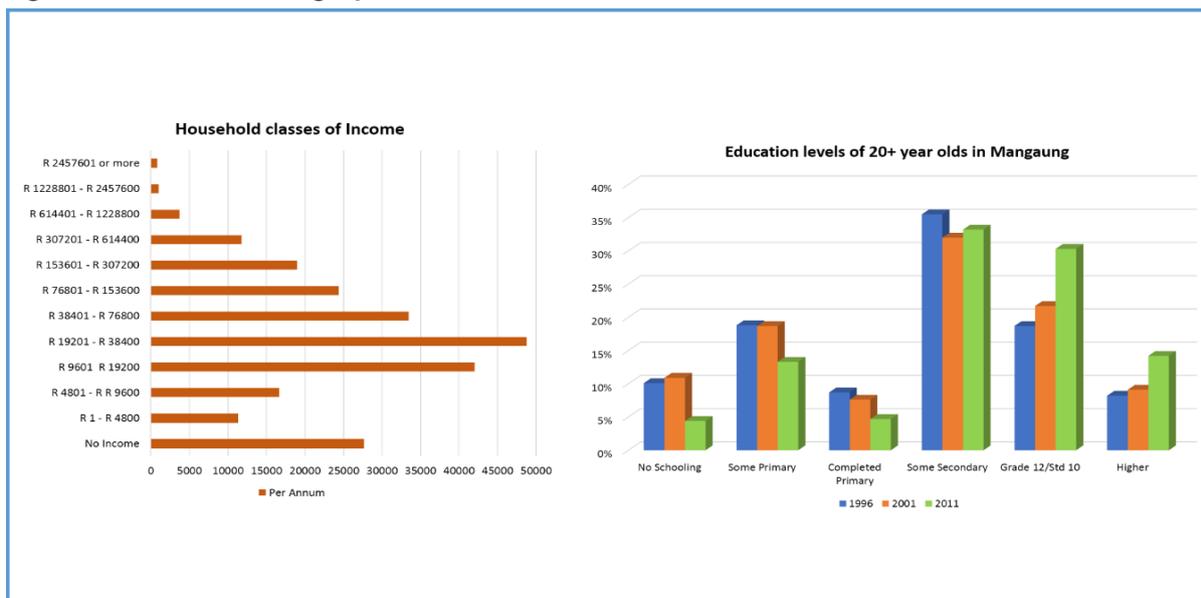
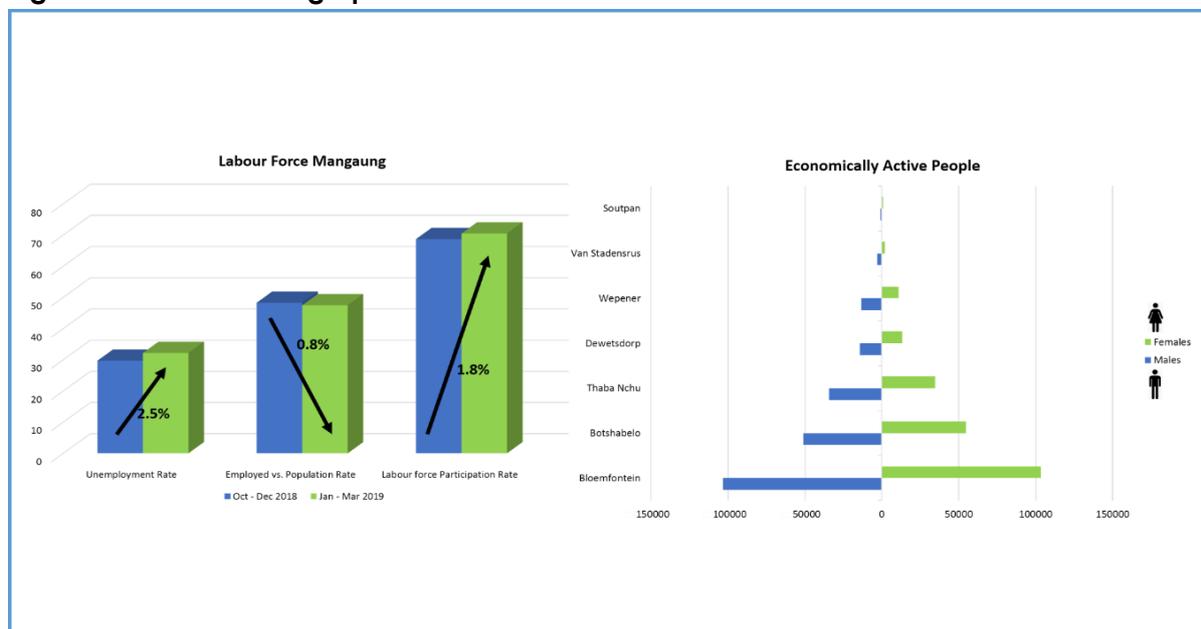


Figure 3.4: MMM Demographic Profile 2

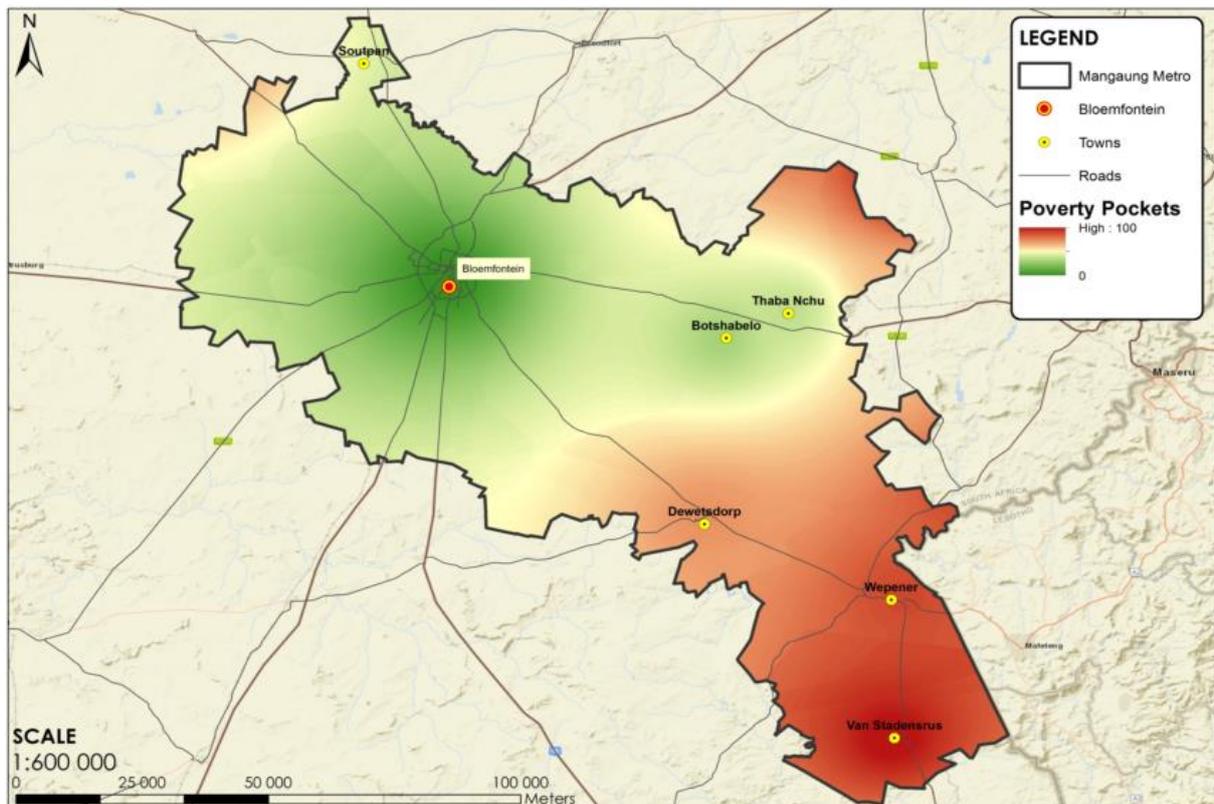


The following conclusions were derived from analysing **Figures 3.3 and 3.4** above:

- Educational levels, with regard to high school and higher education, amongst residents that are older than 20 years have experienced a steady growth since 1996, however, the number of residents that completed primary school have declined since 1996;
- Another positive regarding education is that the number of residents with no schooling have declined since 1996;
- The majority of the households in the Metro earn an annual salary between R19,201 and R38,400, however, a staggering number of households (\pm 27,500 households) have no form of income;
- The majority of the economically active people reside in Bloemfontein, however, many residents throughout the Metro (especially Botshabelo) are heavily reliant on employment opportunities in Bloemfontein; and
- Unemployment in the Metro is a concern, with the unemployment rate currently being 32.2%, and which is continuously increasing.

Taking economic development into consideration, Mangaung's economy is the largest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Free State Province, and is also the most diversified, whilst Bloemfontein remains the economic hub of the region. Having the highest Gross Value Added (GVA) expenditure in and around Bloemfontein is therefore accordingly justified. Analysing all of the abovementioned factors, poverty pockets in the MMM were identified (based on relative terms), as illustrated in the map below.

Map 3.3: Poverty Pockets throughout MMM



3.3 ENGINEERING SERVICES AND NETWORK ANALYSIS

As part of the status quo phase, the provision of services as well as community facilities were analysed and mapped in order to establish the status thereof.

In determining the backlog of services, and by indicating where the backlog exists, will enable one to address the shortfall accordingly. The current backlog of services in MMM is indicated in **Figure 3.5** to the right.

The same goes for community facilities, whereby the shortfall of these structures is determined by means of conducting an analysis. The total number of community facilities currently in MMM are indicated below.

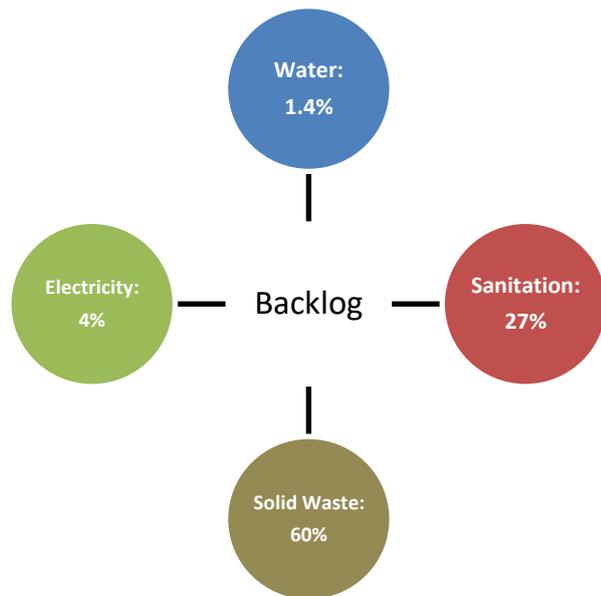


Figure 3.5: MMM Services Backlog



There are currently a total of 314 **educational facilities** within MMM. These include primary and secondary schools, technical and special schools, as well as tertiary institutions. The majority of the educational facilities are clustered in Bloemfontein, followed by Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu.



There are currently a total of 103 **health care facilities** in MMM, which include hospitals, clinics and mobile clinics, whereby the majority of these facilities are also clustered in Bloemfontein. The ratio of clinics compared to hospitals lean severely more towards clinics, especially in the more remote urban centres. The availability of mobile clinics are directly dependant on road quality, meaning that poor road infrastructure often prevents mobile clinics dispatching to certain areas.



There are currently 20 **police stations** in MMM, with the majority of them situated in Bloemfontein. The only 3 **fire brigades** within the entire municipal area are located in Bloemfontein, leaving other urban nodes such as Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu in need of the service.



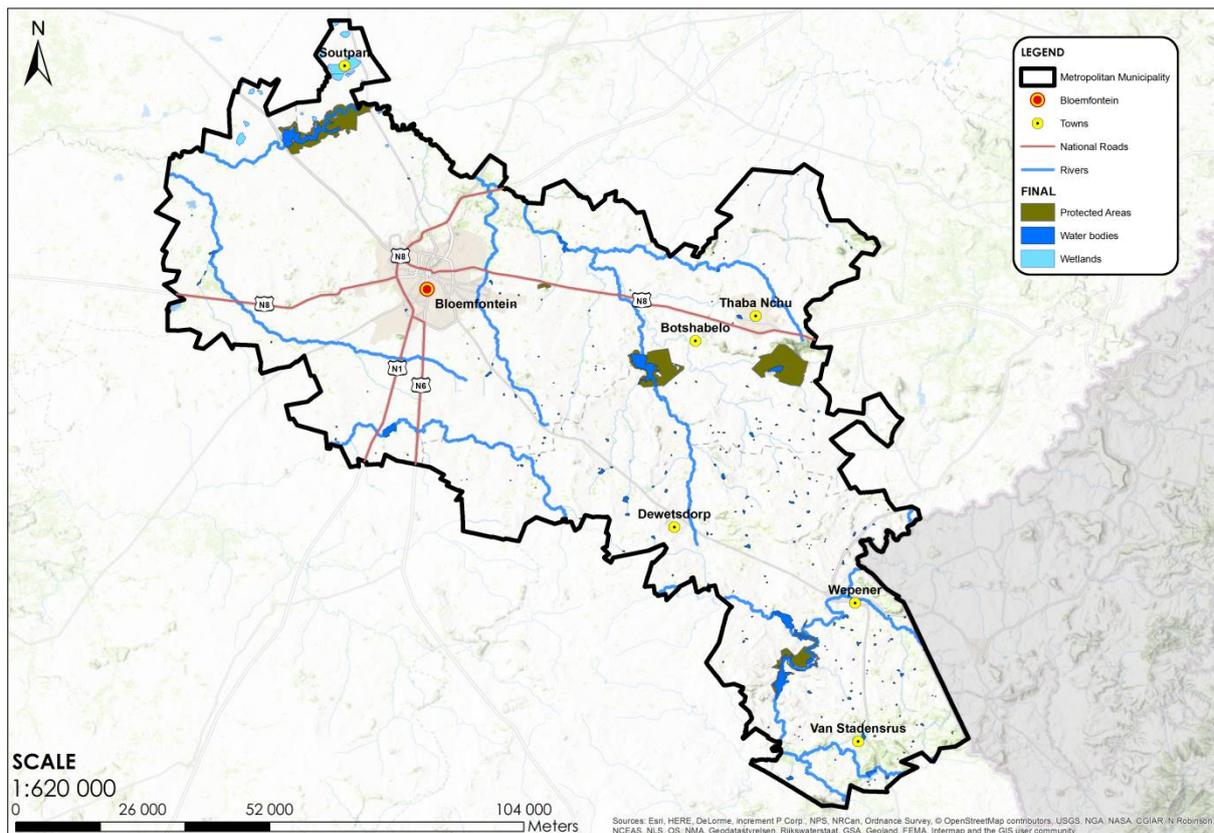
There are a total of 14 **libraries**, 10 **community centres** and 28 **postal services** throughout MMM, all of which are essential facilities by community standards. Amongst these are recreational facilities as well, however, almost all of the abovementioned are restricted to urban areas.

3.4 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

From all of the factors that form part of the spatial analyses, the physical environment is the most important when considering farming activities. Aspects such as access to water, climate conditions, soil types and quality, vegetation and biodiversity are all taken into account when identifying land that is suitable for a specific commodity.

This section firstly illustrates where the major water bodies, dams and rivers are situated within the municipal border, as indicated in the map below, which is followed by an analyses of several other physical aspects.

Map 3.4: Rivers, Dams and major environmentally protected areas



The major water bodies are all surrounded by environmentally protected nature reserves, serving as a mechanism in protecting this valuable resource. The four nature reserves indicated in the above map are as follows:

- Soetdoring Nature Reserve surrounding the Krugersdrif Dam;
- Rustfontein Nature Reserve surrounding the Rustfontein Dam;
- Caledon Nature Reserve surrounding the Welbedacht Dam; and
- Maria Moroka National Park surrounding the Moutloatsi Setlogelo Dam.

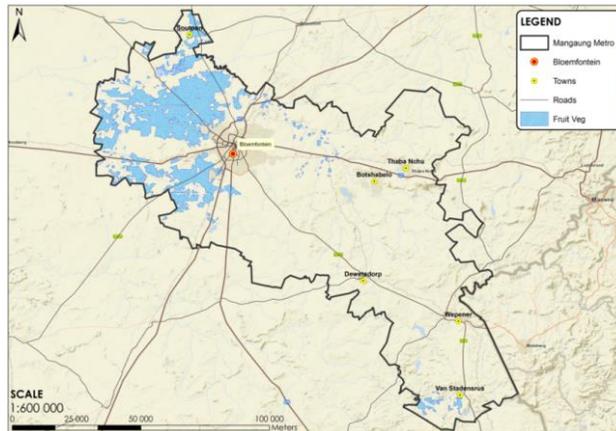
Other physical aspects are discussed in more detail on the next page:

Table 3.3: Physical Aspects

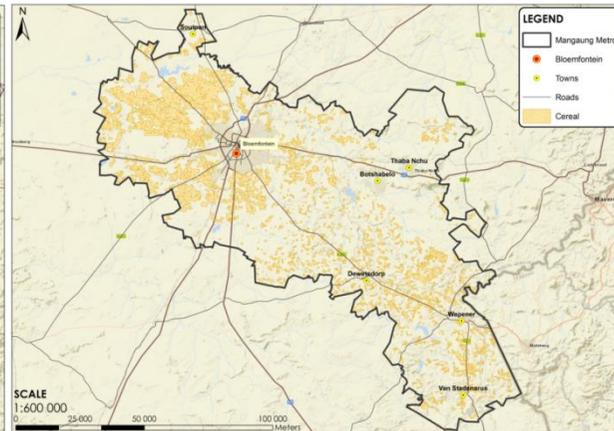
Climate	<p>Rainfall patterns in MMM increase gradually from west to east, whereby the western portion of the municipal area receives between 450 and 500 mm rainfall annually, and the eastern portion receives between 650 and 700mm rainfall annually.</p> <p>Rainfall patterns have a direct influence on drought vulnerability. Drought risk in MMM is the exact opposite of that of the rainfall patterns, meaning that high precipitation areas are typically low drought risk areas. Therefore, the western portion of the municipal area is more vulnerable to droughts than the eastern portion.</p>
Groundwater	<p>Rainfall also has a definite impact on groundwater availability, as a similarity exists wherein areas receiving more precipitation tend to produce better groundwater yields. Rainfall, however, is one of many contributing factors in determining these yields.</p> <p>Areas with more available groundwater are also the areas where the majority of boreholes are to be found. Although boreholes are scattered throughout the entire municipal area, clusters thereof are prominent in Dewetsdorp and especially in and around Thaba Nchu.</p>
Geology	<p>Broad geological areas found in MMM include Tarkastad (eastern portion), Ecca (western portion) and Adelaide (central portion).</p>
Vegetation	<p>Land coverage in the Metro consists predominantly of grassland throughout, as well as cultivated land in high potential agricultural areas, <i>inter alia</i>, Bainsvlei, whilst shrubland and bushland are also present.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Large portions of degraded areas are visible surrounding urban centres, in particular around Bloemfontein, mostly due to commercial farming activities in close proximity to the city. There are furthermore four prominent environmentally protected areas within the municipal area, which are nature reserves surrounding major water bodies.</p> <p>Other biodiversity categories present throughout the Metro include Ecological Support Areas (ESA) and Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA), whereby the last mentioned has a direct impact on identifying commodity potential areas, in that land parcels that are subject to CBA are excluded from the commodity potential regions.</p>

The six commodity groups, as illustrated in the maps below, were investigated to identify regions with high farming potential for each of the commodity groups. These commodity groups were then overlaid to identify farm portions with high mixed agricultural potential, which is discussed in more detail under **Chapter 4** of this executive summary.

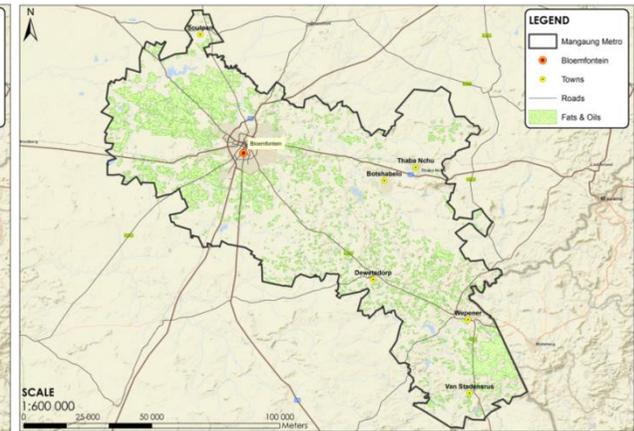
SUMMARY OF COMMODITIES: TYPE SUITABILITY



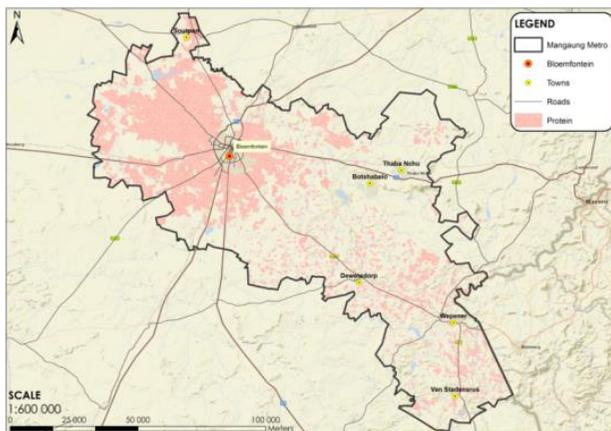
Map 3.5: Fruit and Vegetables



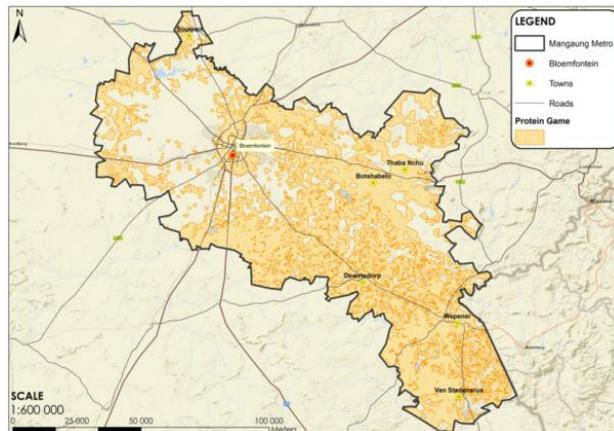
Map 3.6: Cereal



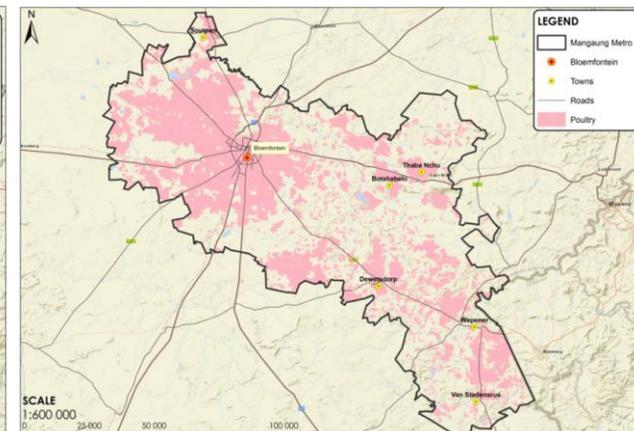
Map 3.7: Fats and Oils



Map 3.8: Protein



Map 3.9: Game



Map 3.10: Poultry

4

FUNCTIONAL REGIONS, STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

4.1 RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS GUIDED BY A FRAMEWORK OF STRUCTURING ELEMENTS

One of the most important steps in formulating the Rural Development Plan is firstly to compile an overall Rural Development Framework, which seeks to illustrate the spatial logic of the study area by portraying the functional relationship between various structuring elements. These structuring (form giving elements) are derived from critical impacts identified in the SWOT analysis and act as the main indicators for creating an enabling environment.

The following form giving elements form the basis of the Rural Development Framework, which did not only assist with the demarcation of functional areas, but also with strategy formulation.

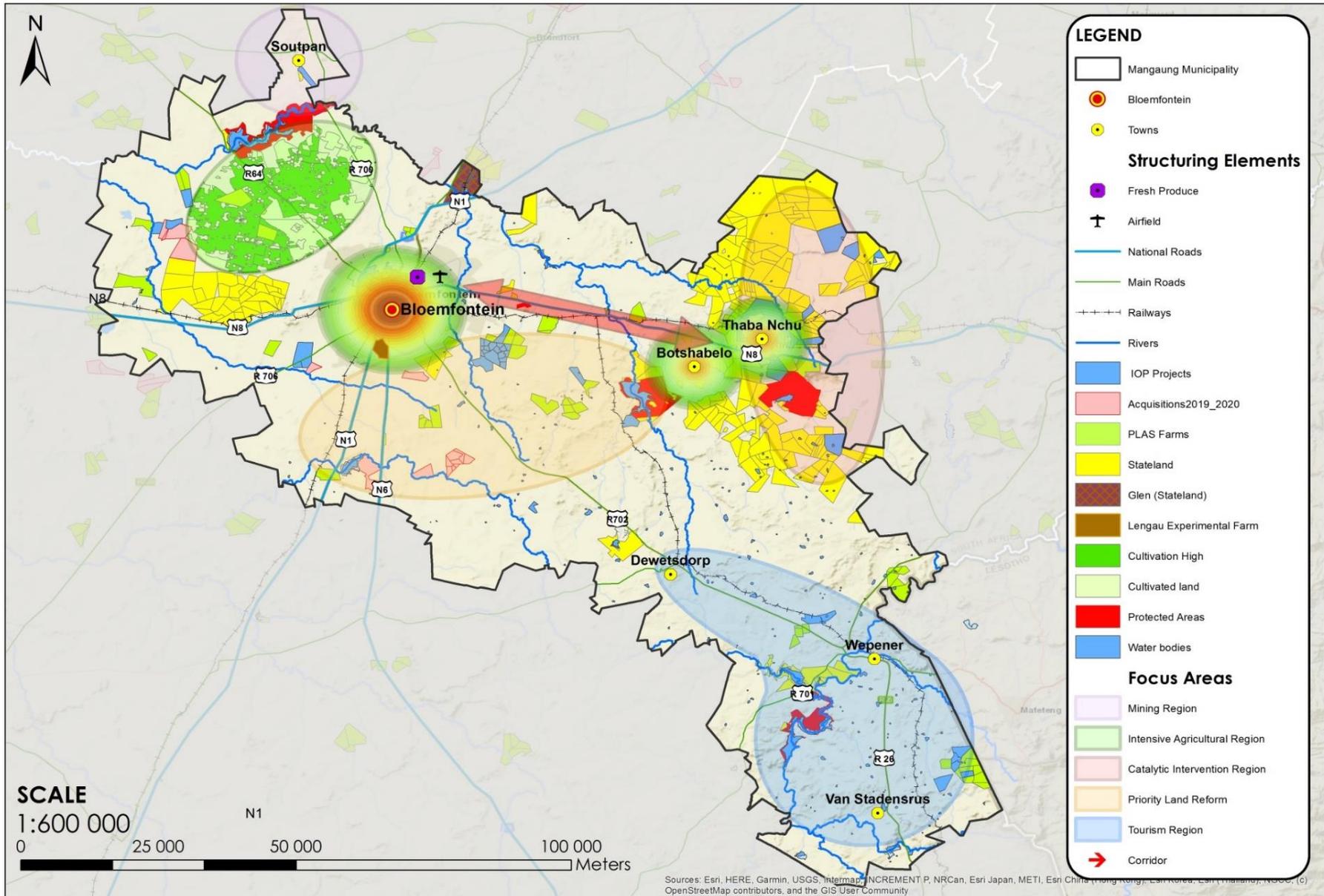
Table 4.1: Structuring Elements

Structuring Element	Importance
Protection areas	Several dams, rivers, and smaller water courses play an important role in the storage and distribution of water for human and animal consumption, as well as for irrigation and recreational purposes. Likewise, existing conservation areas are important in formulating long term development proposals and strategies because of the strong bio-physical links between important natural resources.
Intensive Farming Areas	Mangaung is home to a large number of agricultural value adding industries, whilst intensive farming occurs to the north-west of Bloemfontein on agricultural holdings or small subdivisions. A variety of products are produced here and sold at the Bloemfontein Fresh Produce Market, as well as smaller informal markets. Although underground water are under extreme pressure, the area has the potential to increase farming production with higher yields, making a contribution towards food security, agricultural transformation and rural development.
Supporting Settlement Areas	Existing urban settlements located in Mangaung play a very important role from an economic and social perspective, providing access to much needed goods and services. Bloemfontein is the economic hub offering a wide range of community services and economic opportunities with a high level of dependence between this regional centre and other secondary urban centres. Secondary urban centres, rural towns and tribal villages also play an important role within their immediate surroundings, but with faltering economies, thus requiring serious social and economic investment to ensure positive growth.

Structuring Element	Importance
<p>Prominent Markets</p>	<p>Prominent markets are directly related to population density. The highest concentration people (and buying power), is found in and around Bloemfontein (60%), as well as Botshabelo (23%) and Thaba Nchu (9%). Agricultural production, value adding businesses and distribution of produce should therefore be directed towards these areas, especially with the view to creating strong linkages between market concentrations.</p>
<p>Transport Corridors</p>	<p>The N8 linking Bloemfontein with the Eastern Free State and Lesotho forms the most important transport corridor, not only because it links the most densely populated areas in Mangaung, but also due to its function as a channel for the transportation of goods and services. The high level of accessibility of the corridor is furthermore complimented by the Bloemfontein / Lesotho Railway line, as well as the Bram Fisher International Airport, which forms a gateway for the export of raw and processed products globally.</p> <p>The Dewetsdorp Road (R702) between Bloemfontein and Wepener (also extending to Lesotho via the Van Rooyens and Makhalleng border gates), fulfils an important role from a tourism perspective.</p>
<p>Economic Development Nodes</p>	<p>The Tourism potential of Mangaung is extremely promising, especially if one considers the pristine beauty of the eastern parts of the study area (Dewetsdorp, Wepener and Van Stadensrus), coupled by the abundance of natural resources and rich cultural –historical features.</p> <p>Although Mangaung does not have a strong industrial sector, a great potential exists to develop agricultural related industries, processing plants and other value adding businesses. Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and areas along the N8 corridor are considered as the most suitable areas for industrial and business investment due to accessibility to raw materials, existing markets, labour force and distribution networks.</p> <p>Although salt mining operations around Soutpan are faced with many challenges, the area offers great potential and positive investment in salt mining will not only generate a secure and stable income for the Soutpan area, but will also assist with poverty alleviation.</p>

Structuring Element	Importance
<p>Priority Land Reform</p>	<p>Clear patterns of state owned land and existing land reform projects dictate the identification of future priority land reform areas. Three platforms exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Thaba Nchu comprises mostly state owned land, kept in trust and administered by the Barolong Traditional Council, and which may eventually be transferred to the Traditional Council. • A great need exists amongst rural farmers living in Rural Villages to obtain ownership of the small plots on which they reside. • A huge concentration of DRDLR projects and existing restitution cases exist to the south of Bloemfontein, stretching from Botshabelo in the east up to the N1 National Road in the west, which serve as the blue print for additional land reform implementation. Apart from suitable farming conditions, the area is highly accessible from all transport corridors and form good linkages with existing urban settlements.
<p>Rural Intervention</p>	<p>Due to the tribal settlement of the Tswana people around Thaba Nchu in 1833, the area has a very unique development character in relation to the rest of Mangaung. The 37 tribal villages portray this unique character very well. Apart from this area, Botshabelo is also characterised by high levels of poverty and a lack of local economic opportunities, which resulted in the area being identified as a priority Restructuring Zone. The following interventions are required;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable farming practices, infrastructure development and security is required to improve agricultural production. • Social infrastructure and community facilities are needed in rural villages to support higher levels of sustainability and well-balanced communities; • Providing additional economic and employment opportunities in order to reduce the level of dependency on Bloemfontein.

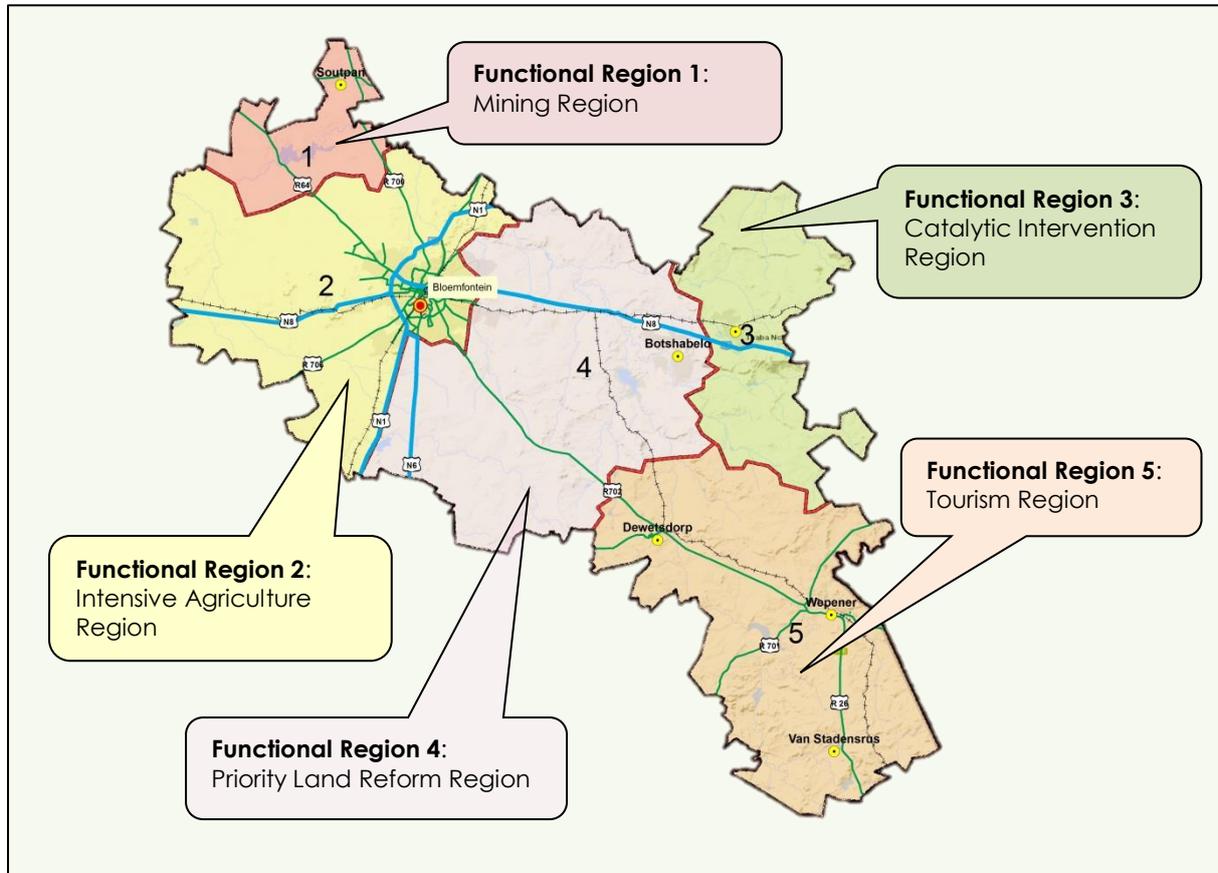
Map 4.1: Composite Map of Rural Development in MMM



4.2 FUNCTIONAL REGIONS FORM THE BASIS FOR ADDRESSING RURAL CHALLENGES

Mangaung has been delineated into five broad functional regions in accordance with the natural resources, development potential or unique characteristics of each area.

Map 4.4: Delineation of Mangaung Functional Regions



These Functional Regions are discussed in more detail in the following paragraphs by highlighting the main features in each region, namely;

- Location;
- Size;
- Nodes;
- Corridors;
- Physical Environment;
- Economic Potential;
- Farming Commodities; and
- Main Focus.

Map 4.7: Functional Region 1: Mining Region

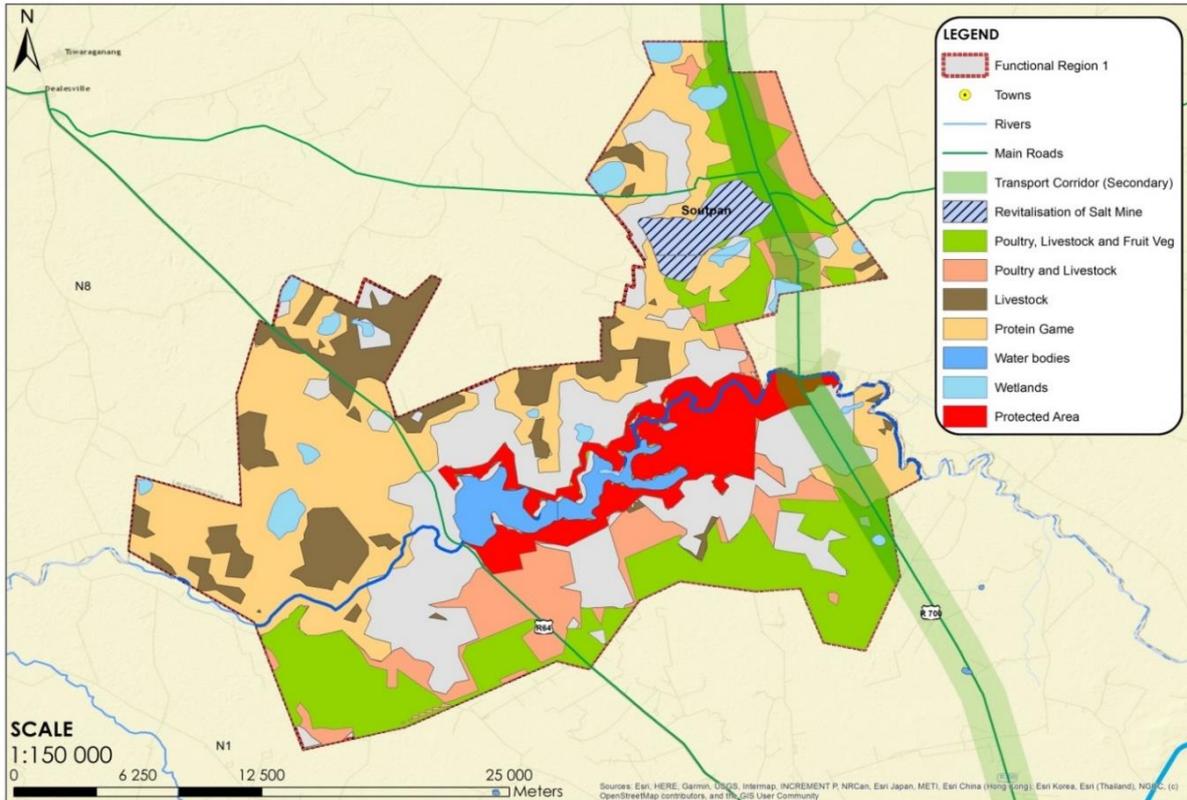


Table 4.2: Functional Region 1

Main Features	Context
Location	North-western corner of the municipal area.
Size	550 km ² .
Nodes	Soutpan and Ikgomotseng.
Corridors	R700 between Soutpan and Bloemfontein, as well as R703 linking Dealesville with Brandfort via Soutpan.
Physical Environment	Modder river, Krugersdrift Dam and Soetdoring Nature Reserve. Limited rainfall, with moderate groundwater yields.
Economic Potential	Classified as a “poverty pocket” with high unemployment rate. An abundance of salt is present, which is being mined informally. Florisbad is a proclaimed heritage site and offers some tourism potential together with the Soetdoring Nature Reserve.
Farming Commodities	Fruit and vegetable production, protein (livestock), game ranching and poultry. Good quality soils towards the south with some irrigation potential from Modder River and Krugersdrift Dam.
Main Focus	The region is classified as a Mining Region with the focus on potentially revitalizing the salt mining industry.

Map 4.10: Functional Region 2: Intensive Agriculture Region

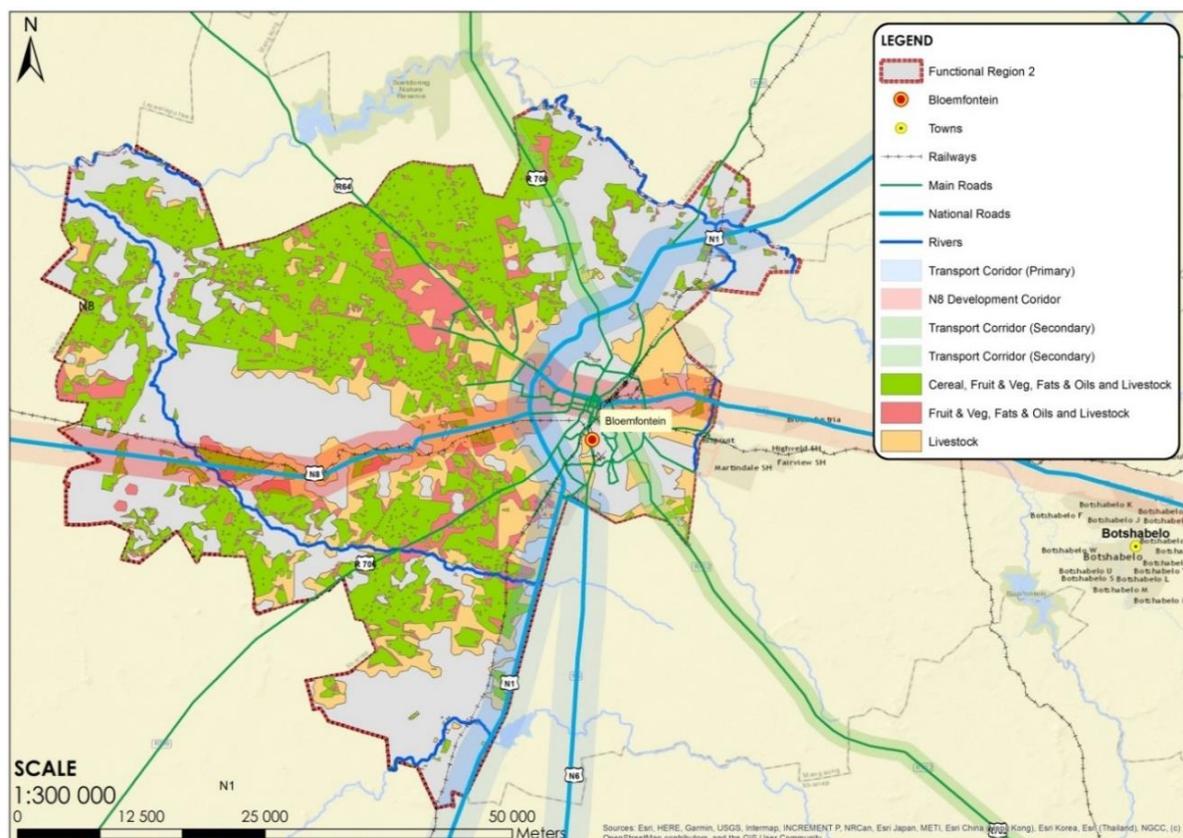


Table 4.3: Functional Region 2

Main Features	Context
Location	Western border of the municipal area
Size	2800 km ² .
Nodes	Bloemfontein (capital city of the Free State Province), Glen Agricultural College, Lengau (future FPSU) and De Brug military training site.
Corridors	N1, N6 and N8, linking Bloemfontein with other Provinces, R700 linking with Soutpan, R64 connecting with Dealesville, R702 connecting with Dewetsdorp, R706 linking with Jagersfontein.
Physical Environment	Majority of the area is degraded according to the FS Biodiversity Map. The area experiences higher levels of drought although moderate groundwater yields are present.
Economic Potential	Bloemfontein classified as economic hub, offering the most opportunities in the region. Access to large markets, facilities and infrastructure, including Bloemfontein fresh produce market and Bram Fisher International Airport.
Farming Commodities	Fat and oil production (sunflowers), fruit and vegetable production and protein production. Good quality soils in Bainsvlei area and moderate grazing capacities elsewhere.
Main Focus	The region is classified as an Intensive Agriculture Region with the focus on optimizing good soil for commercial farming purposes.

Map 4.13: Functional Region 3: Catalytic Intervention Region

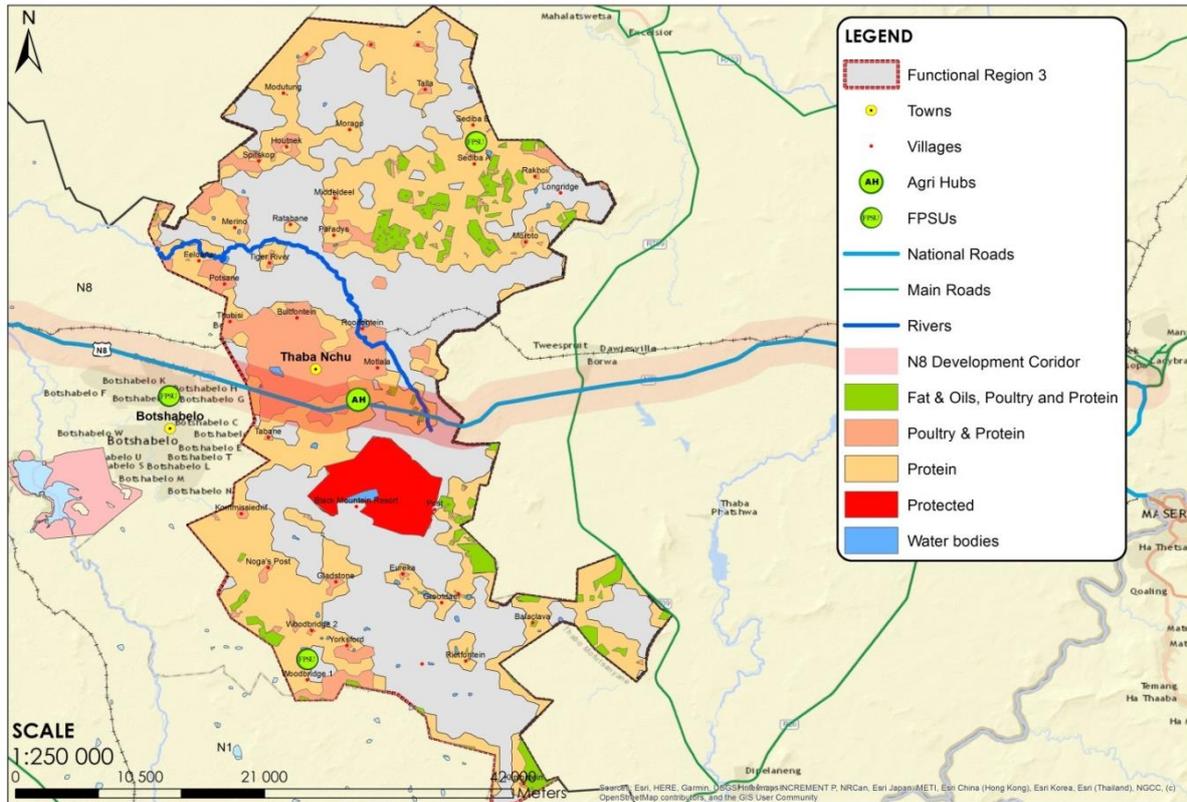


Table 4.4: Functional Region 3

Main Features	Context
Location	North-eastern corner of the municipal area.
Size	1750 km ² .
Nodes	Thaba Nchu Urban, including Seloseshu, and various formalized villages, as well as 37 non-formalized rural villages.
Corridors	N8 linking Thaba Nchu with Botshabelo and Bloemfontein.
Physical Environment	Moutloatsi Setlogela Dam and Maria Moroka Nature Reserve. Above average annual rainfall, with good groundwater yields.
Economic Potential	Classified as a “poverty pocket” with high unemployment rate in the urban areas, whilst subsistence farming practices provide some relief in the rural areas. Economically dependent on Bloemfontein, although opportunities exist in relation to Agri Hub, which is aimed at improving value chains, skills development and agro-processing.
Farming Commodities	Predominantly subsistence farming (crops and livestock) with small pockets of game ranching and poultry production. Limited production of fats and oils in some areas.
Main Focus	The region is classified as Catalytic Intervention Region. The designation of Thaba Nchu as an economic growth point forms the main focus, which includes, amongst other, development of the Agri-Hub, strengthening of Farmer Production Support Units, tenure reform and the improvement of rural villages to serve as more effective service centres.

Map 4.16: Functional Region 4: Priority Land Reform Region

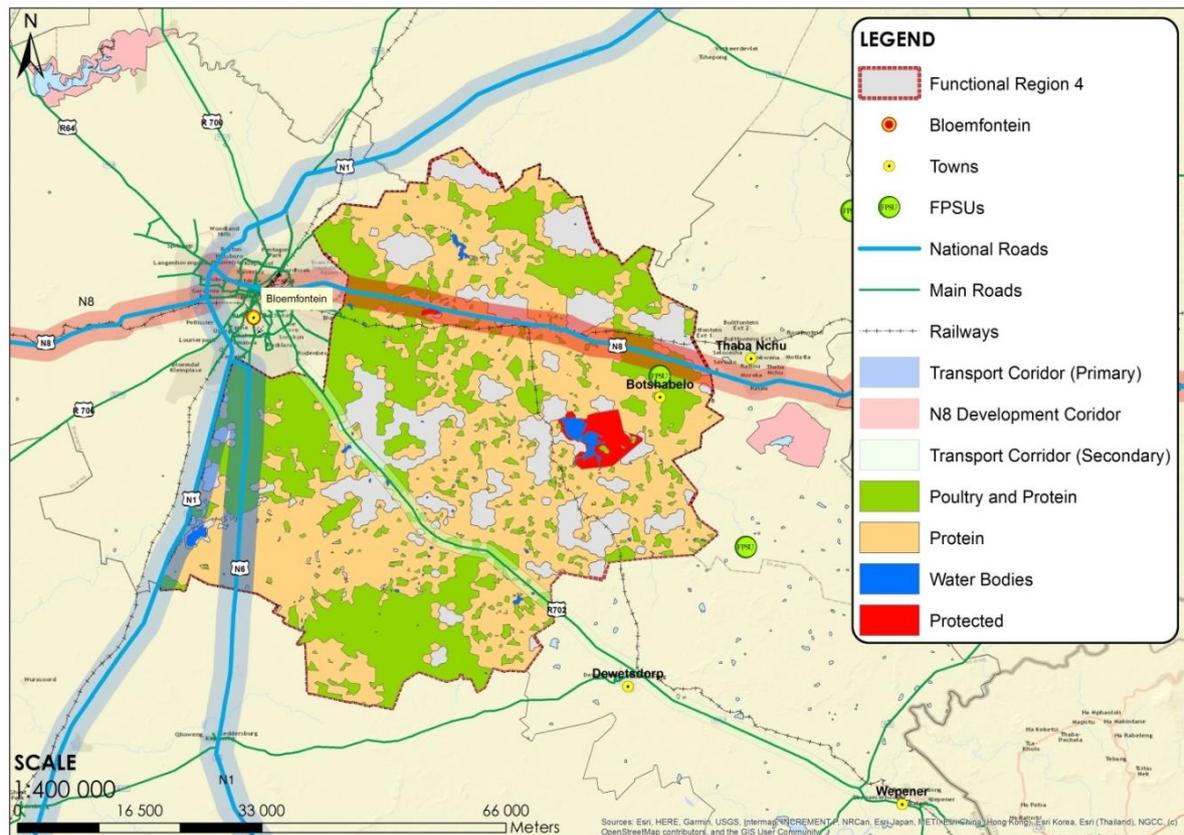


Table 4.5: Functional Region 4

Main Features	Context
Location	Centre of the municipal area.
Size	3200 km ² .
Nodes	Botshabelo and outskirts of Bloemfontein West
Corridors	N8 linking Botshabelo with Bloemfontein, N1 and N6 located to the west and R702 connecting Bloemfontein with Dewetsdorp.
Physical Environment	Modder river, Rustfontein Dam and Nature Reserve. Good annual rainfall with moderate groundwater yields.
Economic Potential	Botshabelo is characterised by high levels of poverty and unemployment. Several investment opportunities exist in relation to the N8 corridor and the status of Botshabelo as a Restructuring Zone. The concentration of existing DRDLR projects forms an existing network of farming assistance.
Farming Commodities	Mostly livestock production, game ranching and poultry production, although some dry land cropping also takes place.
Main Focus	The region is classified as a Priority Land Reform Region with the focus on the N8 development corridor, as well as the cluster of land reform projects and state owned land in the area, unlocking investment potential.

Map 4.19: Functional Region 5: Tourism Region

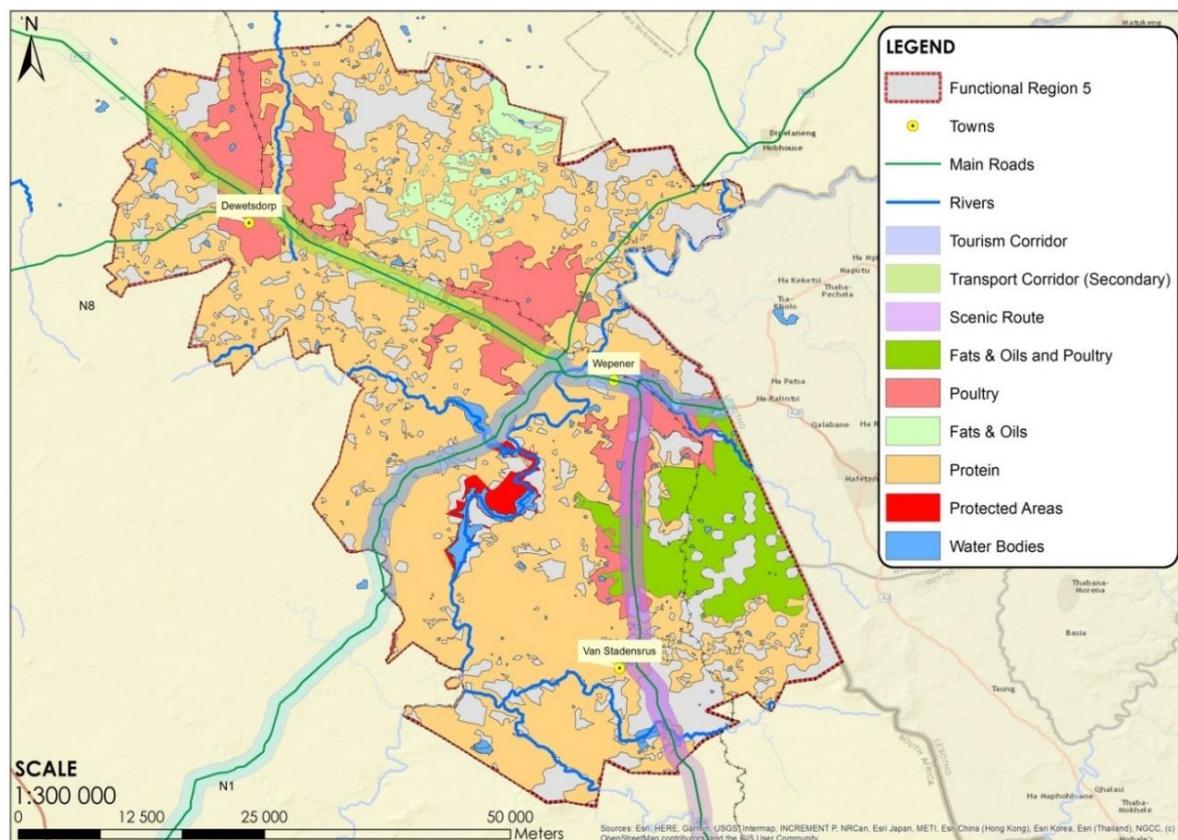


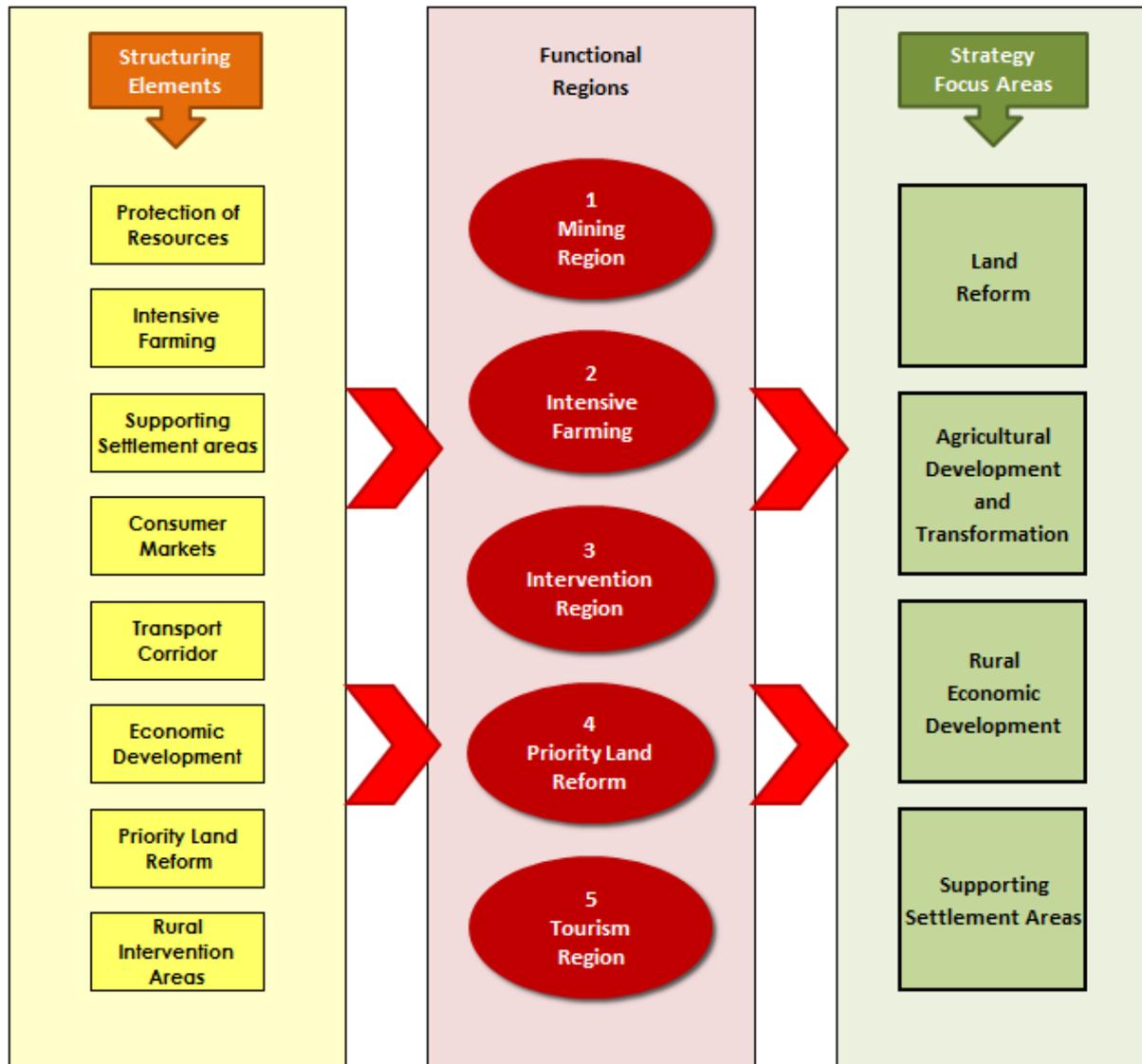
Table 4.6: Functional Region 5

Main Features	Context
Location	South-eastern corner of the municipal area.
Size	3000 km ² .
Nodes	Dewetsdorp, Wepener and Van Stadensrus
Corridors	R702 connecting Bloemfontein with Dewetsdorp, R26 linking Wepener and Van Stadensrus, as well as R701 linking Wepener with the Gariep Dam via the Caledon Nature Reserve.
Physical Environment	Caledon and Witspruit rivers, Welbedacht and Egmont Dams, as well as the Caledon Nature Reserve. Good rainfall with excellent groundwater yields.
Economic Potential	Classified as a “poverty pocket” with extreme levels of unemployment. Agriculture is main economic activity, although excellent opportunities exist, especially in the tourism sector.
Farming Commodities	Livestock production and game ranching, with some isolated dry land cropping, mostly focusing on oilseeds. Potential for poultry production exists.
Main Focus	The region is classified as a Tourism Region with the focus being on the Caledon Nature Reserve, pristine environment, gateway to Lesotho and historical monuments.

4.3 STRATEGIES PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Following the identification of eight strategic directives, which were derived from the structuring elements, it was possible to conclude **four main Strategy Focus Areas**. Detailed strategies were then formulated in respect of each Functional region and in accordance with the four Strategy focus areas.

Figure 4.1: Process for Strategy Formulation

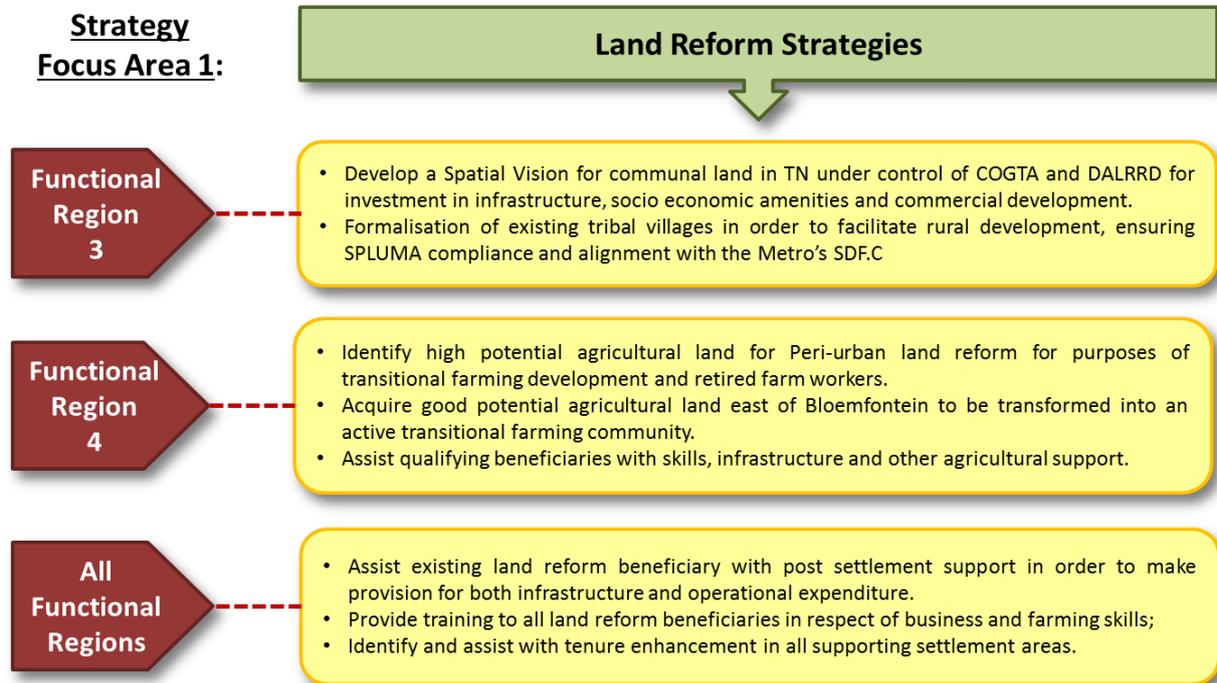


The relevant strategies that were formulated in respect of each Focus Area are detailed below.

4.3.1 Strategy Focus Area 1: Land Reform

The first Focus area relates to **Land Reform**, which is specifically targeted toward **Functional Regions 3 and 4**, although a number of general strategies have also been formulated in relation to all other functional regions.

Figure 4.2: Strategy Focus Area 1



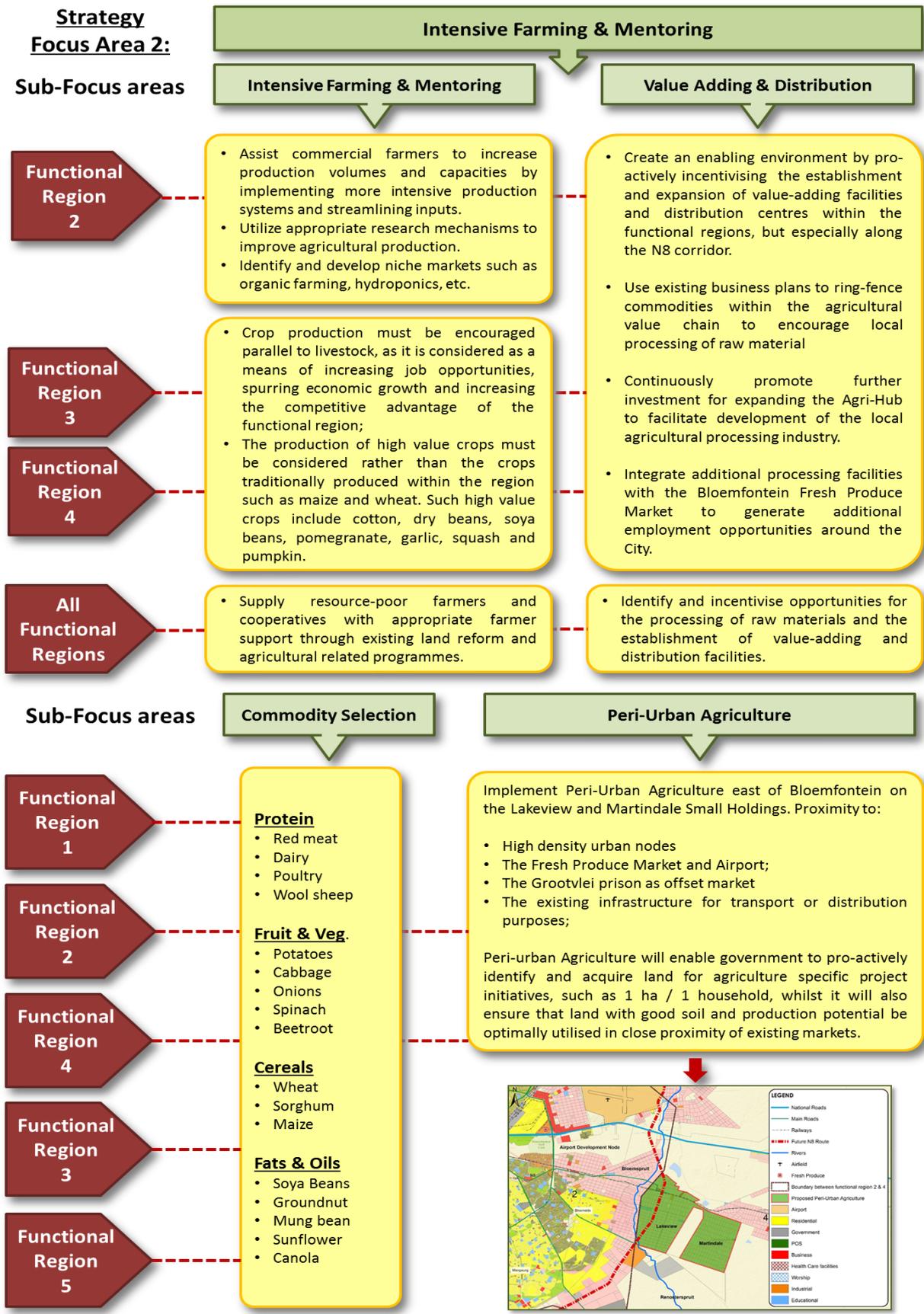
4.3.2 Strategy Focus Area 2: Agricultural Development and Transformation

The second Strategy Focus area addresses **Agricultural Development and Transformation**. This focus area branches into four separate sub-focus areas, namely;

- Intensive Farming and mentoring;
- Value adding and Distribution;
- Commodity Selection; and
- Peri-Urban Agriculture.

The functional Regions that will be benefitting most from the identified strategies include **Functional Regions 2, 3 and 4**. The other Functional Regions are, however, not excluded, as a number of general strategies applicable to all regions have, once again, been identified.

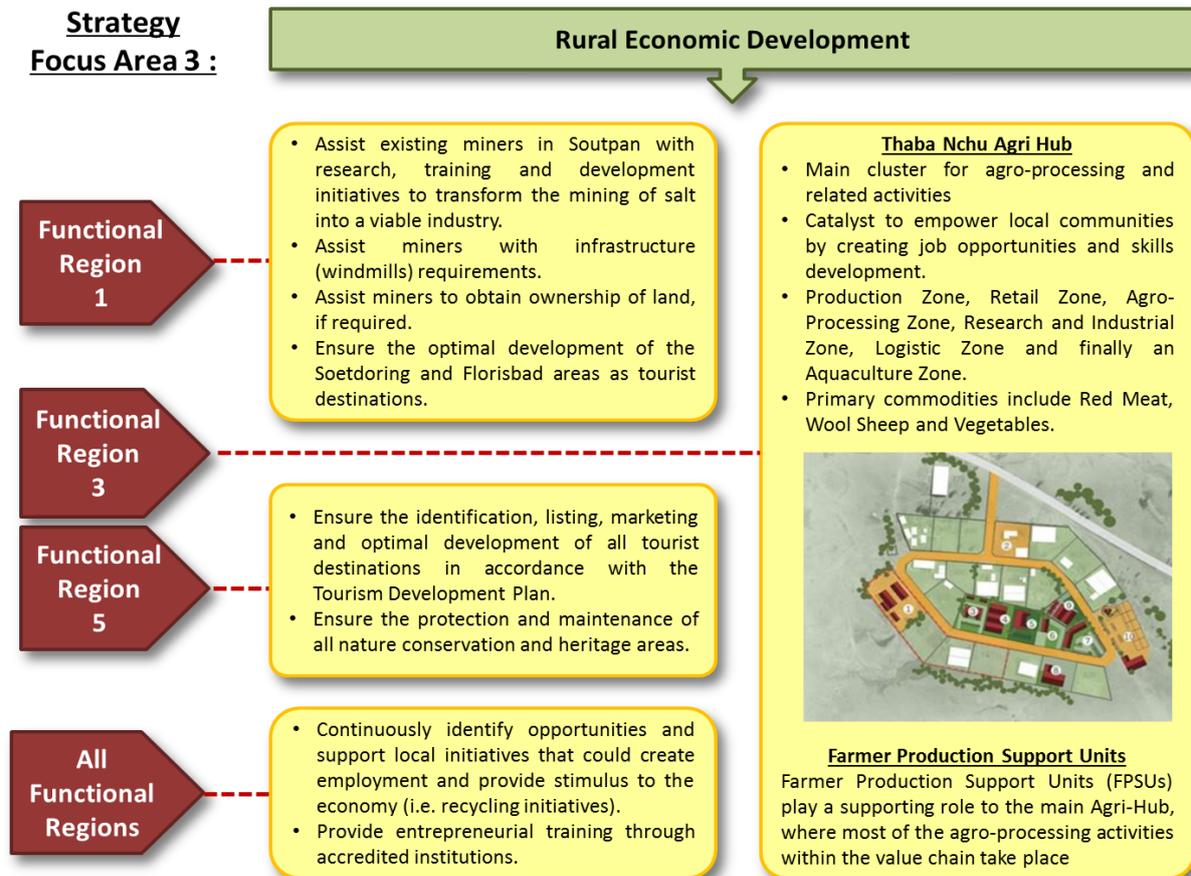
Figure 4.3: Strategy Focus Area 2



4.3.3 Strategy Focus Area 3: Rural Economic Development

The third strategy focus area revolves around **Rural Economic Development**, which focusses on **Mining** linked to **Functional Region 1**, as well as on **Tourism** linked to **Functional Region 5**. Apart from this, the Thaba Nchu Agri-Hub is singled out as one of the main clusters for agro-processing and related activities, and which will be supported by three Farmer production Support units located at Botshabelo, Sediba and Woodbridge.

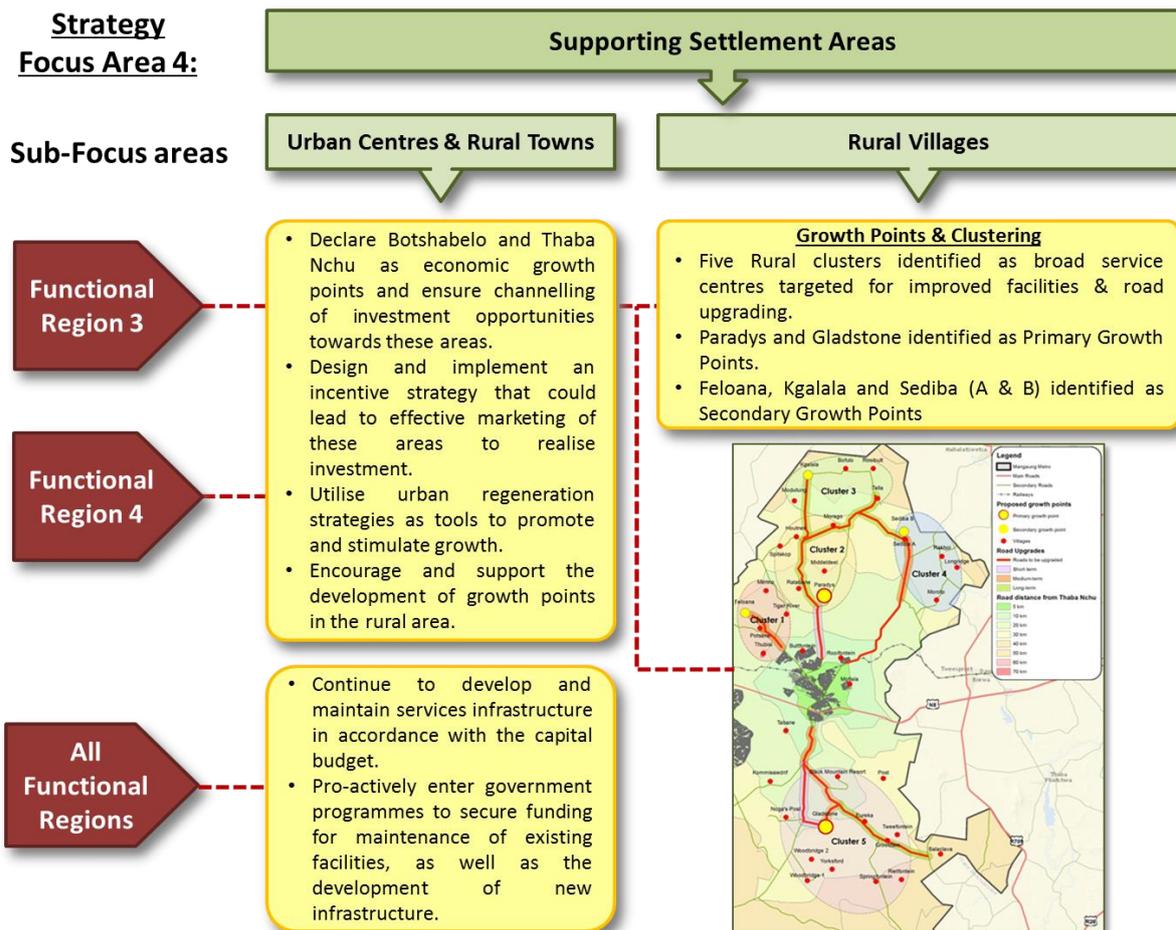
Figure 4.4: Strategy Focus Area 3



4.3.4 Strategy Focus Area 4: Supporting Settlement Areas

Finally, the last strategy focus area aims to improve the functionality of **supporting Settlement Areas**. Although the goal is to stimulate growth, employment and economic opportunities is all functional regions, the focus will more specifically be on Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo as growth centres. Challenges within rural Thaba Nchu will also be addressed through the clustering of villages as service centres, whilst some villages will be stimulated as growth points within each cluster of villages. It is envisaged to improve service delivery and access to social facilities in these areas, as well as to upgrading on selected roads.

Figure 4. 5: Strategy Focus Area 4



4.4 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Several projects have been identified as part of other processes where implementation has already commenced or are about to commence. These projects are automatically included in the RDP and include the following;

- Existing Land Reform Projects
- Integrated Operational Plan Projects (IOP)
- PLAS Projects
- DARD Projects
- Municipal Projects
- Projects from other Sector Departments

These projects are included in the Implementation Plan and will be revised yearly with the Implementation Plan.

Identification of new projects are weighed against several other conditions and evaluation criteria. This is to ensure that projects are realistic and with an above average change (possibility), of being implemented. Projects are identified whilst considering the following;

- Direct and indirect impact on rural development;
- Catalytic ability and size of the project
- Project resource and operational requirements
- Institutional and other requirements;
- Alignment with existing programmes / policies (i.e. IDP's and sector plans);
- Level of addressing needs, targets and priorities.

The above considerations are simply used to create strategic alignment between projects in order to make prioritisation easier at a later stage. The projects are mainly from DRDLR, DARD, and MMM due to them being responsible for most of the agricultural, land reform and rural development projects within Mangaung.

5

CONCLUSION

The Mangaung Metro Municipality (MMM) has been identified as one of the most impoverished regions in the country, largely due to its vast rural landscape, as well as with the Municipality recently adopting several deprived urban nodes, by including these towns (previously part of the Naledi Local Municipality) into its area of jurisdiction.

A total of 44 District Rural Development Plans have been developed throughout SA thus far, however, this plan is unique in that it is the first Rural Development Plan (RDP) compiled for a Metro Municipality. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), in collaboration with MMM and several sector departments, therefore longed for a plan that will not only address the dire circumstances that are currently being experienced in the area, but also serve as a benchmark in directing development in rural areas. To achieve this, an extended public participation process was followed to actively involve the community, whereby workshops were held throughout the region in order for residents to share their concerns as well as aspirations.

Two main drivers, namely the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) were continuously used as basis in compiling the RDP. As part of the process, a contextual and spatial analyses were conducted which considered several factors that had an influence in determining the way forward for the RDP. These factors included, *inter alia*, alignment with National, Provincial and Local Policies, the status quo of physical and environmental features, the municipal area's socio-economic profile, current economic trends, engineering services and services infrastructure.

These factors, in collaboration with the feedback from the community, enabled the formulation of development priorities that were transitioned into a vision and objectives, and furthermore used as a tool to determine certain form giving elements. Functional regions were demarcated thereafter in which specific strategies and programs were created to ensure focused spending and effective implementation in the rural environment.

To ensure sustainable development, this RDP aims at enhancing the coordination and alignment in planning systems between the different spheres of government. Not only will the plan be utilised to identify potential opportunities and direct development, but to enhance the livelihoods of people living in rural areas as well.