

**1. Programme Name:**

Urban Environmental Management Programme (UEMP)

**2. Component Name & Number:**

Air Quality Government Lekgotla (NP-6.01, NP-08-03, NP- 09-04)

**3. Partner Name:**

**Department of Environmental Affairs**

**4. Number of projects; as well as person (s) in charge and contact details:**

Planned number of projects: 1

Actual number of projects: 1

Person (s) in charge and contact details: Ms Agnes Phahlane

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**5. UEM Grant Received:**

Planned: R1000 000.00

Actual Receipts: R1000 000.00

(R500 000.00 in 2007 and R500 000.00 in 2008)

**6. Duration of programme activities:**

Planned start date:

Actual start date: 2007

Planned end date: 2009

Actual end date: **2010**

**7. List of Annexures:**

*(2008 and 2009 project reports, 2010 Lekgotla resolutions, and pictures).*

**A: Original objective (s), outputs aimed for and accomplished solutions (outputs)**

- To facilitate intergovernmental air quality management cooperation and coordination.
- To strengthen cooperation between the three spheres of government to work together in order to improve the quality of air in the country.
- To provide the opportunity for government air quality officials to get together with their colleagues at national, provincial and municipal levels to: assist and support one another; share experiences and lessons learned, consult one another on matters of common interest; and develop common procedures in Air Quality Management field.
- To provide the Department with an effective platform for informing all spheres of government about the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (AQA) rollout plans and progress reports.

What were key successes, highlights and failures (and how the latter could have been avoided)?

- The Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla has grown from strength to strength with around 250 officials from province, municipalities and other national departments attending the event.
- An improved working relationship between the Department and the other spheres of government on air quality management issues.
- Joint collaboration and improved coordination between local municipalities, especially in relation to sharing resources and skills for air quality projects.
- Overall preparations and capacity building for the handing over of the Atmospheric Emission Licensing functions from the national department to provinces, metros and districts municipalities to ensure smooth running of the licensing functions when the Air Quality Act came into effect in April 2010.
- The main challenge was that, some of the municipalities were unable to attend the conference due to financial constraints. The funding received from the UEMP was used to sponsor some of those municipalities to participate in the

event. Also political buy-in so that air quality issues should be prioritised to ensure a broader participation of air quality officials from all spheres of government.

**B: Thematic focus areas addressed (e.g. National Air Quality, Waste Management, Integrated Urban Planning; City Sustainable Energy Strategies; Climate Change, etc):**

- **The Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla** focuses on practical air quality governance challenges facing all affected spheres of government, especially municipalities. This annual gathering provides an opportunity to discuss and debate ways and means of addressing the various governance challenges and discuss planning for the year ahead.
- Therefore, through the Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla, Air Quality Officials are inspired, capacitated and strengthened to deal with air quality management issues within their jurisdictions.

**C: Contribution of overall programme management and organisation; financial management and procurement; programme and component monitoring to achievement of desired outputs.**

- No problems with regard to overall programme management that hindered the achievements of the outputs.
- Only one person in finance section was working with the UEMP funds and this causes some delays with regard to financial statements.
- Improved working relationship with the UEMP project manager has helped a lot in receiving updates and feedback in time.

**D: Contribution of component institutional anchoring and implementation management (as contained in the attached section 4.4 of the UEM Programme Document) to the successful achievement of the desired outputs.**

- Having the UEMP project manager within the department has helped to have adequate support for the implementation of the project.
- Drafting of business plans and progress reports assisted in terms of monitoring the progress of the project and keeping track of finances.

**E: Alignment with other Partners within and outside your Component**

Air Quality Governance Lekgotla brings together Air Quality Officials from all spheres of government in air quality management field; however there is no direct alignment of activities with other UEMP partners.

**F: Best practice and overall lessons learnt about the programme**

- Cooperation within the three spheres of government has strongly encouraged the municipalities to actively participate in the Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla.
- Good working relationships enable smooth and effective implementation of the project.

**G: Key Recommendations**

- The funding should be sustained to assist under resourced municipalities to participate in the Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla, to learn and strengthen their capacity to deal with air quality issues within their jurisdiction. This cooperation and coordination ensure the smooth implementation of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (AQA).