

**Press release: Research on National Audit and Analysis of Powers and Functions and Relevant Legislation that affects Municipal Urban Environment Management Knowledge, for dissemination to National, Provincial and Municipal spheres of Government in South Africa**

This predominantly desktop research focused on an *Audit and Analysis of Relevant Legislation as well as Powers and Functions thereof that affect Municipal Urban Environmental Management Knowledge in South Africa*.

Four key research areas were spelt out in the Terms of Reference (ToR) to address to the main research task namely:

1. An initial review and listing of relevant websites, internet-based networks, periodical **publications, and key reference** works.
2. An audit of **key relevant legislation** as well as corresponding powers and functions.
3. A status quo and analysis of **relevant new reference works from around the world** including research and academic papers, and print and electronic media reports. These updates were to take the form of a summary of content and findings and include analysis of their relevance to South African cities.
4. Original and **strategic analysis** of selected data and information that impacts on municipal Urban Environmental Management (UEM), particularly on **powers and functions** (which the research considers to be of greatest value in this work).

**Task 1** involves the review, careful selection and alphabetical listing of relevant websites and internet-based networks as well as providing summaries of key aspects covered on these websites of relevance to the UEM Programme. Over 80 websites from the international, regional and national arena are listed and those of critical importance to the UEM Programme are highlighted by an asterisk (\*). The task also involved the review, careful selection and chronological listing of internet-based periodical publications and key reference works.

**Task 2** is approached in the following sequence: review, careful selection, downloading and chronological listing of relevant international binding key polices and legislation; review, downloading and listing of Danida UEM Programme documents; review, careful selection,

downloading and chronological listing of relevant national, provincial and participating local governments key policies and legislation; and a selective audit of key relevant policies and legislation as well as powers and functions for the three spheres of government, with the view to: identify overlaps in content, powers and functions; establish areas of conflict in content, powers and functions; emerging (new) challenges; and pro-active measures taken to address environmental management aspects within the focus thematic areas, particularly at the provincial and local government spheres.

**Task 3** considers the status quo and analysis of recent publications around UEM internationally, regionally and nationally. This is done in the form of a matrix capturing the titles of publications, years in which the documents and/ or research papers were published as well as presentation of summaries of content and findings. A column drawing the relevance of the reviewed documents and/ or research papers to South African cities and, especially the UEM Programme was also included.

**Task 4** (which the research team considered to be the most important) focuses on the original and strategic analysis of selected data and information. The analysis draws insights from, key UEM policies and legislation as well as Tasks 2 and 3 and pulls the entire research project together. The task forms the basis upon which key emerging issues and recommendations and/or suggestions were drawn under Task 5.

Drawing mainly from research Tasks 2-4, the **fifth task dealing with Emerging Issues and Key Recommendations** was added to the ToR and deliberates upon the four key thematic areas namely: Integrated Urban Environmental Planning; Waste Management; Air Quality Management; and Energy Management. Additional themes were also developed for Task 5 and these include: Cross-cutting Issues and Mediation of this Research Report. Readers should note that although these themes are mutually inclusive, they are presented separately in this executive summary and Task 5 for clarity purposes only. Users are therefore encouraged to always bear this in mind when interacting with the document. Summaries of some of the emerging issues and key recommendation from the thematic areas are presented in the final document.