

POVERTY RELIEF FUNDS

The Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism administers a number of poverty relief funds. These are summarised below.

Poverty Relief Funds	
Provider	Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism
	<p>The purpose of the DEAT Poverty Relief Programme is to manage and administer poverty relief proposals and spin-off projects in the tourism and environment sectors, with a special focus on infrastructure investment and product development (such as heritage sites, rock art and conservation). These, in turn, are focused around emerging tourism growth points and priority projects such as transfrontier conservation areas. DEAT's Poverty Relief Programme is part of a broader Government project set up to mainly alleviate poverty amongst South Africa's poorest communities. Where possible, this is done in a manner that should create long-term sustainable work opportunities. DEAT has a dedicated Poverty Relief Unit that has administers four main funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Land Based Livelihoods, which includes funding of Working for Water, Working for Wetlands, Working for the Land and Community Based Natural Resource Management programmes. • Working for Tourism, which focuses on support for tourism enterprises that create jobs and benefit for local communities. • People and Parks, which focuses on projects that involve communities in conservation of protected areas and maximise benefits to the poor that can flow from conservation programmes. • Working for the Coast, which supports programmes that use coastal resources for the benefit of coastal communities. • Working for Waste, which supports SMMEs involved in waste management and recycling. <p>Recently the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism has begun to consider allowing poverty relief funds to be used to finance community equity or ownership of tourism</p>



	<p>enterprises especially those that involve a partnership with the private sector. These grants include components for technical support and can considerably enhance the community empowerment components of tourism enterprises as well reduce significantly the cost of capitalising these ventures.</p> <p>Each poverty relief project must have an implementing agency (IA). The IA can be a Government department, a municipality or local council, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), a community-based organisation (CBO) or a private company. The primary consideration is that an IA must be legally constituted, able to open a bank account, and have a history of sound financial management.</p>
Contact details:	<p>Poverty Relief Unit of DEAT Street Address: 15th Floor, Fedsure Forum, Corner Pretorius and van der Walt streets, Pretoria, 0002 Postal Address: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001 Tel: +2712-310-3017 Fax: +2712-329-1135 Email: hullah@deat.gov.za Website: www.deat.gov.za and www.thelapha.com</p>

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

Provider	<p>Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism (as lead agent in partnership with a number of other government departments as well as the Business Trust)</p>
	<p>The EPWP is a nation-wide programme covering all spheres of government and state-owned enterprises that aims to draw significant numbers of unemployed into productive work accompanied by training so that they increase their capacity to earn an income. The programme involves reorienting line function budgets and conditional grants so that government expenditure results in more work opportunities, particularly for unskilled labour. The EPWP does not displace existing permanent jobs and all opportunities must be based on real demand for services. The programme has been divided into four sectors ie environmental and cultural, social, economic and infrastructure. Each of these consists of a number of government departments each with one government department nominated to lead each sector.</p>



	<p>Environmental and cultural sector. This is led by DEAT. This programme will result in 200 000 hectares of land cleared of aliens, 40 rehabilitated wetlands, 20 fire protection associations, 700 kilometres of coast cleaned with adequate infrastructure, 10 000 hectares of rehabilitated land, 32 waste management programmes and 150 historical and community tourism projects. A total of R249 million has been committed to this programme by government for the 2004-9 period. Contact details are provided for this sector of EPWP.</p> <p>Infrastructure sector. The Department of Public Works leads the infrastructure sector. The programme involves ring-fencing a portion of the existing conditional infrastructure grants to provinces and municipalities. Over the next 5 years, approximately R15 billion (or one third of the total budget) will be spent on the labour-intensive construction and maintenance. Approximately 37 000 km of roads, 31 000 km of pipelines, 1 500 km of storm water drains and 150 km of urban sidewalks will be constructed using labour-intensive methods.</p> <p>Economic sector. The Department of Labour is the main agent for the economic sector which will kick off with a micro-enterprise venture learnership project. Learners, selected from amongst the unemployed, will be registered on full-time SETA-funded learnerships and supported to set up an SMME. The practical work experience component of these learnerships will be funded through public bodies allocating learning contracts to the learners and using general public sector expenditure on goods and services. The learners will graduate from their learnerships with the necessary technical knowledge to run their businesses, knowledge of how to tender for public sector projects, knowledge of how to run a business, an NQF qualification, experience and a credit track record.</p>
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