

# THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AFRICA

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# Overview

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# Aim

- The aim of this study is to present how women in South Africa contribute to the development and planning of sustainable development policies.

# Sustainable Development

***"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."***

Brundtland Commission) report Our Common Future  
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987)

- Achieving balance between three broad objectives
  - Maintenance of economic growth
  - Protection of the environment
  - Social Progress

# Environmental Sustainability

- Ensuring that the earth's natural resources remain intact, natural resources (water, land, forests, etc.) remain intact
- **MDG 7:** Ensuring environmental sustainability
- All government policies must adhere to these principles of sustainable development.

# Why is it important to preserve THE Environment?

## International



- Biodiversity loss
- Climate change
- Global warming
- Nature and animal conservation

## National



- Short destruction of natural age of water
- habitats
- Overfishing
- Introduction of exotic species
- Pollution

# Why Women?

○ In many societies, in the household women are responsible

- Production of food
- Collection and usage of water and firewood

*(Patel, 1996)*

- Activities place women in direct contact with natural resources.
- Women have an increased amount of knowledge of how natural resources can be preserved.



# Women, Environmental Policy and Legislation

- Studies have shown the need to consider gender in the analysis of environmental management.
- “Most environmental decision making is a male domain and the impacts of those decisions fall on women” (*Mellor, 1997*)
- Representation of women
  - Governments
  - Parliaments
  - Intuitions



# Natural resource policies in south Africa

- DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
- NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: AIR QUALITY ACT 39 OF 2004
- NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT ACT 62 OF 2008
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ACT
- NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LAWS AMENDMENT BILL
- NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS AMENDMENT BILL

# The Legislative process of policy development in South Africa

Green Paper

**Steering Committee**

Parliamentary research group

National Council of Provinces

Task Teams

Public Consultations e.g. Imbizos

White Paper

Bill

Act

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# South Africa:

## Women's representation quotas

- Constitution of South Africa
  - Does not provide for quotas to ensure adequate representation of women in elected public bodies, nor are any legal quotas established for national or provincial elections
- SADC declaration on Gender and Development
  - Structures all levels, and the achievement of at least 30% target of women in political and decision making structures by 2005.
  - There is no penalty if this is not adhered to.

# Women in South Africa

- Commission on Gender Equality in South Africa
- African National Congress (ANC) SACP (South African Communist Party), Congress of the South African Trade Unions (COSATU)
  - Each has a gendered desk/department at the top of the organisation and lower levels,
  - To monitor policies and programmes on gender equity, as did most governmental bodies.

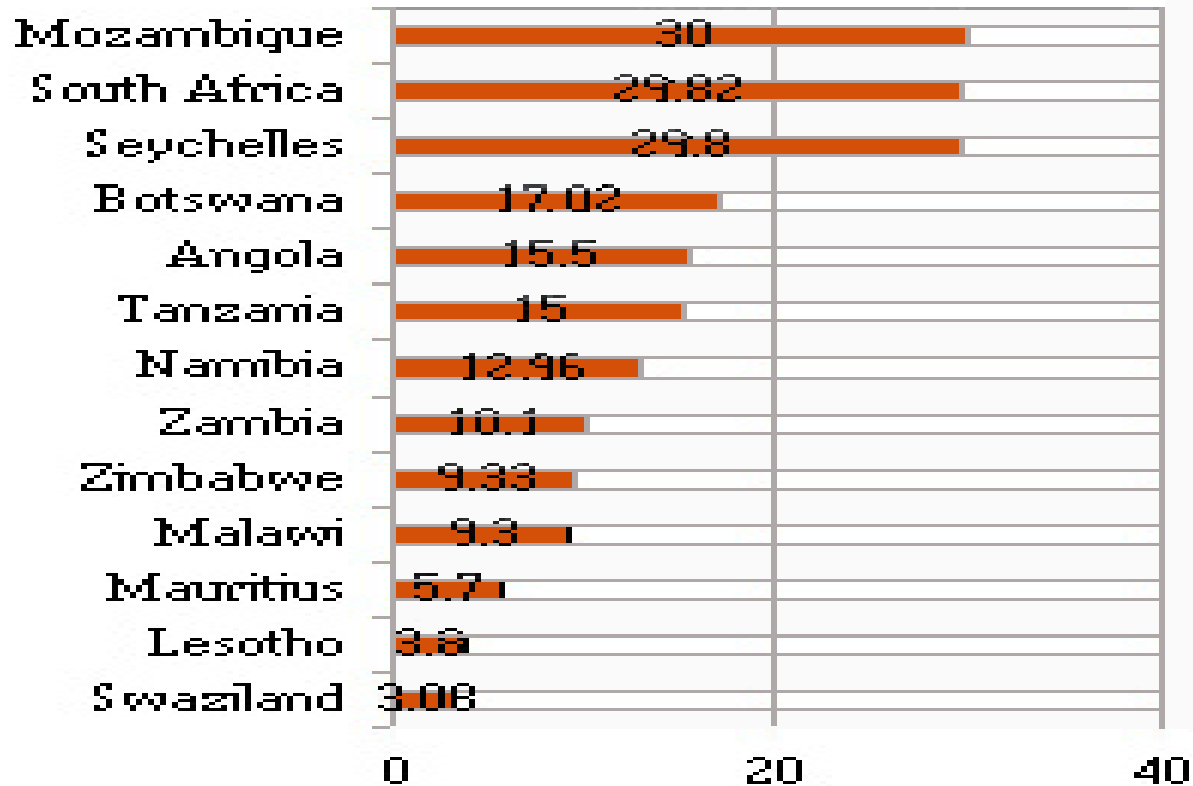
# South Africa: Women Involvement

## Number of women in Parliament

Year	Total seats	Women's seats	% women
2009	400	172	43
2004	400	131	32.75
1999	400	120	30
1994	400	111	27.74

*Source: [www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)*

# Women in Parliament in SADC in 2002



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Website

# SA: Women in executive councils and provincial legislatures, 1999

Province	MPLs	Women	% Women	MECs	Women	% Women
Eastern Cape	63	15	23.8	10	2	20.0
Free State	30	7	23.3	11	3	27.3
Gauteng	73	25	34.2	11	3	27.3
KwaZulu-Natal	80	21	26.2	11	1	9.1
Mpumalanga	30	8	26.7	10	2	20.0
Northern Cape	30	8	26.7	11	3	27.3
Northern Province	49	15	30.6	11	1	9.1
North-West	33	10	30.3	11	3	27.3
Western Cape	42	10	23.8	13	2	15.4
Total:	430	119	27.6	99	20	20.2

*Compiled from lists received from Provincial Parliaments on*

*1 September 1999*



# Discussion

- ❖ South Africa has made remarkable progress in number of women in parliament
- ❖ Need for more women to be employed as MELs and MECs.
- ❖ Need for “Inclusive and Effective  
“participation of women

# Recommendations

- ❖ Qualitative Research
  - ❖ Define and understand their positions
  - ❖ Level of participation in policy making and the extent to which women perceive that their suggested ideas were taken into consideration.
  - ❖ Access data number of women in steering committees

# Conclusion

- Sustainable Development
- Broader perspective into decision making
- Political liberty for women
- Including more women in positions of power
- Conventional beliefs regarding the role of women will be changed.
- Women should not be seen as victims but also agents of change.

**Thank You**

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