

Integrated Development

The objective of the New Priority Area (NPA) Integrated Development is to undertake research designed to promote integrated sustainable development in the rural and urban areas of South Africa. Such development is aimed at alleviating poverty, improving the quality of life of people, enhancing economic production and promoting a more equitable distribution of resources.

Development is viewed from a *human* perspective, with the strength of the NPA lying in its insight into the institutional, management, economic and human impact aspects of development issues. This wide spectrum points to the multidisciplinary and multisectoral nature of the NPA's approach.

While the concentration of poverty in rural areas leads to particular emphasis on rural research, the NPA's integrated approach takes into account rural-urban and Southern African regional linkages, as well as the integral relationship between economic, social and environmental factors in determining the sustainability of development.

Its focus on rural and urban areas positions the NPA strategically to support two of the Presidential Imperative Programmes, namely Integrated Sustainable Rural Development and Urban Renewal, the latter in collaboration with the Democracy and Governance NPA.

Research projects during the past year included poverty reduction; land reform policies and practices; the need for sustainable water supply in rural areas; the impact of natural and human disasters on poor communities; the role of public health, water and sanitation in the well-being of children, and the phenomenon of internal and cross-border migration in a South African context.

With the assistance of the British government's Department for International Development, the NPA established a **Southern African Regional Poverty Network** in early 2001. Its objectives are to encourage debate in the region on poverty issues cross-sectorally, to strengthen existing and emerging links between stakeholders concerned with poverty issues, and to promote research and exchanges of information and discussions between these stakeholders. It is believed that this initiative, to be conducted in conjunction with regional partners and agencies, will prompt more focused debate and thinking. A first step towards achieving this goal is a two-day conference on land reform and poverty alleviation in June 2001.

Following the **flood damage** in South Africa during the early months of 2000, the NPA was commissioned by the Command Centre for Flood Relief and Emergency Reconstruction to evaluate its emergency reconstruction programmes in KwaZulu-Natal, the Northern Province, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape. The research,



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undertaken with the assistance of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, revealed that mainly poverty-stricken rural communities had borne the brunt of the devastation. The reports are intended to help the government introduce effective preventive strategies timeously to save lives, protect assets and minimise environmental degradation.

The provision of a sustainable, readily accessible **water supply** system – a basic human need shown to be a highly effective development catalyst – is a universal community challenge. The HSRC has been involved in research in this area for the past four years. In 2000/01 NPA staff members contributed a chapter on community participation and empowerment in rural water supply for a planned book on public policy and related practice.

Two contract projects dealing with aspects of poverty alleviation and community development were undertaken in the period under review. One involved data collection, analysis and projections of household income for 2001-2003 by municipality to assist the Department of Provincial and Local Government in its **local government equitable share** modelling activities for the 2001/02 financial year. In the other project the NPA, as a partner in a consultancy service, conducted a feasibility study to support **local economic development** in the Northern Province.

Work on the multi-year project on the role of HIV/AIDS, water quality and related factors in **infant and child survival** continued in the report period. Arrangements were made for the visit in mid-2001 of Profs Barbara Anderson and John Romani, both internationally recognised academics from the University of Michigan. As guest researchers at the HSRC for a year they will participate in the production of high-level, policy-related outputs on infant and child mortality in South Africa.

Very little is known about the processes, dimensions and causes of **internal migration**, and particularly its impact on development and poverty, in South Africa. The NPA accordingly undertook and completed an initial survey on the subject during 2000, and the main survey among 4 300 households was planned. The generated data will be available for analysis from October 2001, after which a model for the prediction of migration and urbanisation will be developed. Two renowned scholars, Profs Gordon F. De Jong (USA) and Aderanti Adepoju (Nigeria), as well as several local external experts participated in the first phase of the project.

NPA researchers contributed a commissioned chapter on migration and unemployment for the Department of Social Development's publication entitled *The state of South Africa's population report 2000*. The research findings should inform future policy, especially on cross-border migration. A book based on the NPA's research on internal migration is due for release later in 2001.

No progress can be made towards a life of dignity for our people as a whole unless we ensure the development of South Africa's rural areas.

– Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa

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The first phase of the project on **cross-border migration** that started some two years ago entailed a study on the causes and impact of cross-border migration from Mozambique and Zimbabwe to South Africa. The implications for regional development and planning, especially in Mpumalanga and Mozambique, were also investigated. The study was completed in March 2000.

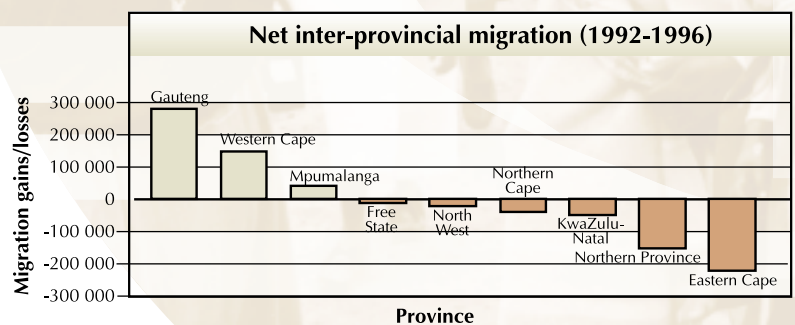
The second phase, on migration from Lesotho to South Africa, was conducted in 2000/01. The study included a number of interviews and items in a questionnaire survey conducted in Lesotho, particularly to establish the implications of cross-border migration on service delivery in South Africa, as well as the impact of mineworkers' wages/remittances on the economy of Lesotho.

Both studies suggest that the causes of cross-border migration from neighbouring states to South Africa are complex, interwoven, and cannot be ascribed to one specific factor. A burning research question being addressed is whether high levels of migration will in the long run be sustainable for South Africa and the region. The findings will be published in forthcoming books and reports on cross-border migration.

In the **future** the NPA will continue to focus on a broad range of issues:

- Poverty alleviation, livelihood strategies and quality of life.
- Integrated rural development (including agriculture; the rural non-farm/SMME sector; rural finance, and land reform).
- Urban renewal and development, rural-urban migration, agro-processing and urban agriculture.
- Service delivery and infrastructure, especially water, sanitation and transport.
- Natural resource management and the environment (including tourism).
- Social and institutional development and capacity building (including intergovernmental relations; the role of traditional authorities and local government delivery; community empowerment through the development of community-based resources; the application of indigenous knowledge, and community participation in intervention strategies).
- Spatial development (including spatial development initiatives; regional planning and development nodes; migration, and trade and capital flows within the Southern African region).

In keeping with the HSRC's vision of conducting social research that makes a difference, the work done in the NPA is oriented towards improving policy and on-the-ground practice. Identifying the implications of research findings for state, civil society and private sector policy and practice will consequently be a high priority.



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