

National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF)

Background:

The National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) is a strategic long-term spatial plan towards 2050. The NSDF is legally mandated by the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (SPLUMA), and has to be aligned with the 2030-National Development Plan (NDP). The framework development was managed by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). The CSIR's Inclusive Smart Settlements and Regions (ISSR) impact area was part of the project team led by the University of Pretoria's Town Planning Department.

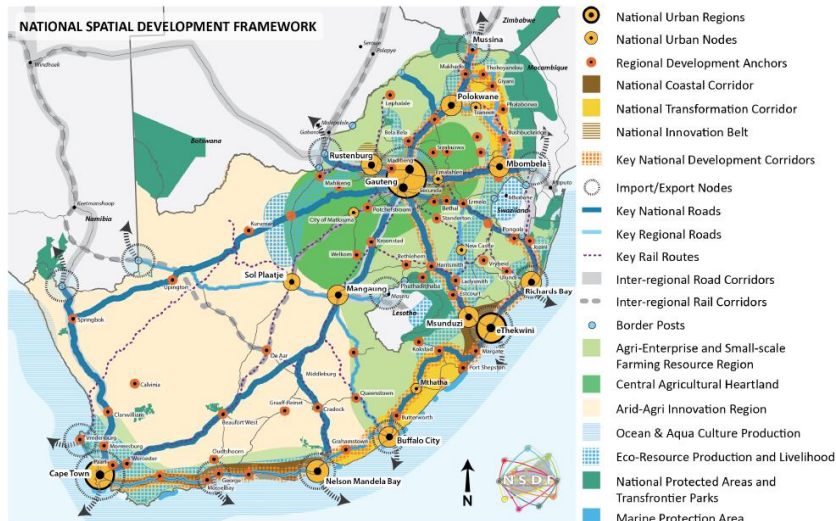
Cabinet Approval:

Cabinet approved the draft NSDF for implementation during a Cabinet Meeting on the 23rd of March 2022. It was prepared in terms of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act 16 of 2013) and approved for public consultation in 2019. Inputs were obtained from various stakeholders, including professional bodies, all spheres of government, SOEs and members of the public. **It becomes South Africa's primary national spatial development policy** as it provides:

- A visual representation of the desired national spatial development pattern for the country
- A set of national spatial directives for all forms of infrastructure investment and development spending in the country; and in terms of SPLUMA, the NSDF has to be adopted by Cabinet, after which it becomes South Africa's primary national spatial development policy
- A series of national strategic spatial areas for targeted investment by government and the private sector.

South Africa needs to make a decisive break from its inherited unjust and unsustainable national spatial development pattern and unshackle itself from the detrimental impact it continues to have on the ability of government to meet its national development objectives. The NSDF puts forward a theory of change that seeks to do just that by proposing radical and decisive intervention in the national spatial development logic and pattern; natural resource use and maintenance profile; and patterns of ownership of and access to land and other resources.

While the NSDF requires radical changes in how Government plans, budgets and invests and spend that will not be easy to achieve, the rewards of doing so far outweigh the sacrifices – a peaceful, prosperous and truly transformed South Africa.



The CSIR team:

The CSIR's Inclusive Smart Settlements and Regions (ISSR) impact area was part of the overall team that developed the NSDF and was represented by Elsona van Huyssteen, Cheri Green and Johan Maritz. The CSIR worked on several components including preparatory phase, spatial analysis, national spatial development shapers, future vision, and the NSDF sub-frames. The CSIR was also involved in the development and use of the service wheel which reflects the conceptual relationship between the South Africa Town Typology and the social facility standards.

The NSDF document can be accessed from the [DALRRD](#) and [DPLG](#) websites.