SECTION B THE PLANNING PROCESS

2. THE PLANNING ETHOS

The primary ethos underpinning this **Spatial Development Framework** (SDF) process is to involve the communities and authorities responsible for the administration of the area in the formulation of integrated spatially based policy guidelines, ensuring that future planning and development in the Overstrand Municipal Area will be managed in a sustainable manner. **"Sustainable development" is generally defined as 'development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Within this context sustainable development relates to balancing three interlinked factors, namely human well being, economic efficiency and environmental integrity.**

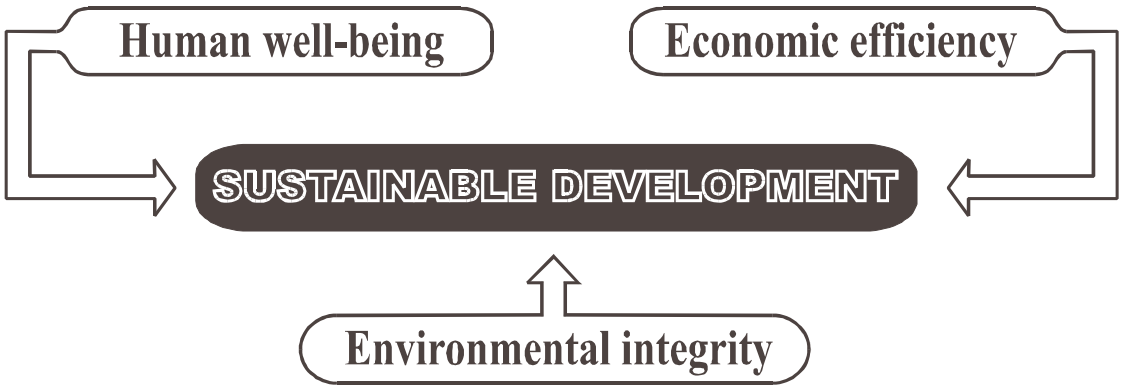

FIGURE 2: THE THREE GLOBAL IMPERATIVES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The ethos underpinning **sustainable development** implies that a number of **key principles** are followed in the compilation of this SDF, namely:

- the community should have equitable access to resources and opportunities;
- planning policy should ensure sustainable use and development of the natural, built and cultural resources of the Overstrand Municipal Area;
- the planning process should ensure that all interested and affected parties have the opportunity to participate;
- planning should continuously adapt to changing social, economic and environmental circumstances;
- the role and place of the Overstrand Municipal Area within the broader regional, social, economic, environmental and political context must be recognised and steps taken to work constructively within these processes;
- the plan must promote diversity and growth, within the context of achieving social, environmental and economic well being in the area;
- planning should be seen to provide creative solutions to the issues identified; and
- the plan must be supported by the commitment of the responsible local authority and link proposals to an implementation strategy.

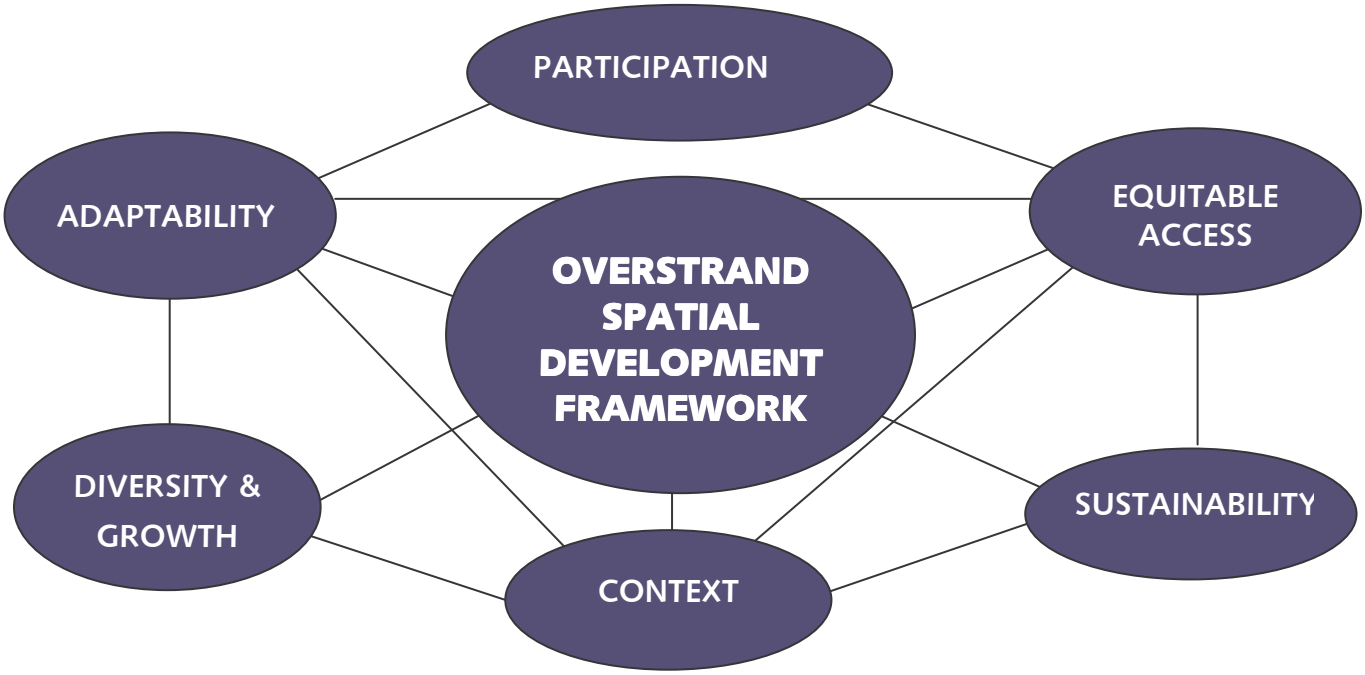

FIGURE 3: THE INTEGRATION OF KEY PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING THE APPROACH TO THIS PLANNING PROCESS

The study will further be informed by the concept of **Bioregional Planning** (refer section 4 of this report). In essence, sustainable development can only be achieved through maintaining bio-diversity. The key to ensuring the preservation of bio-diversity is the maintenance of environmental integrity. Maintaining environmental integrity in the planning process therefore becomes one of the primary determinants of land-use planning. In terms of the World Conservation Strategy, sustainable development is considered to be a set of tools and strategies which respond to five broad requirements, namely:

- integration of conservation with development;
- satisfaction of basic human needs;
- achievement of equity and justice;
- provision of social self-determination and cultural diversity; and
- maintenance of ecological integrity.

Bio-regional planning refers to an integrative, internationally accepted approach to regional planning and management[1] that endeavours to promote sustainable development. This approach, by definition thereof, supports a sustainable relationship between ecological processes and the needs of communities.

[1] *Encompassed in the Global Biodiversity Strategy, adopted by international organisations such as UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), and WRI (World Resource Institute).*

2.1 THE PLANNING PROCESS

2.1.1 The Planning Cycle (refer *Figure 4*)

Until recently, planning was seen as a technical exercise concerned with preparing a set of plans and supporting documentation for a future desired end state of urban development. This approach ignored the fact that planning is concerned with man's activities and the changing systems in which these activities take place. It is now recognized that planning is a continual and incremental process linked to the dynamics of economics, social values, lifestyle patterns, technology, legislation and the availability and management of environmental resources. This approach ensures that planning remains a cyclical process and not a single act. In order to achieve an efficient product (spatial framework and policy), it is therefore critical that the ongoing cyclical nature of the planning process is reflected in the approach, process and methodology.

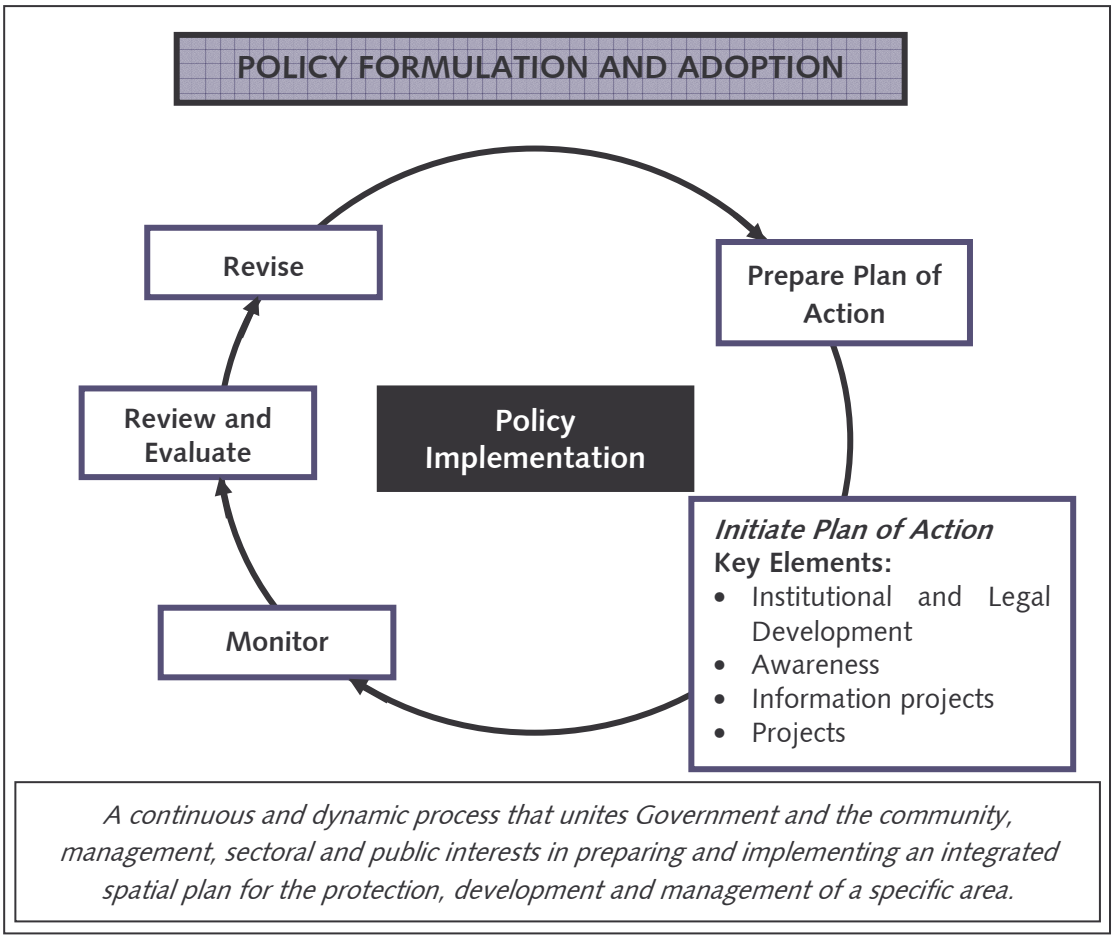

FIGURE 4: THE PLANNING CYCLE

In the light of this, the spatial planning initiative for the Overstrand Municipal Area should be viewed as the commencement of an ongoing planning process, which will guide and manage future growth, change and conservation in a sustainable and integrated manner.

2.1.2 **The Process**

The Overstrand Spatial Development Framework is being prepared in accordance with the Integrated Development Planning process (refer ***Figure 5***). This process is aimed at identifying the opportunities inherent to the area, as well as relevant concerns, problems and issues. Multi-sectoral strategies are then formulated to utilise and expand the opportunities in order to address the area's strategic weaknesses.

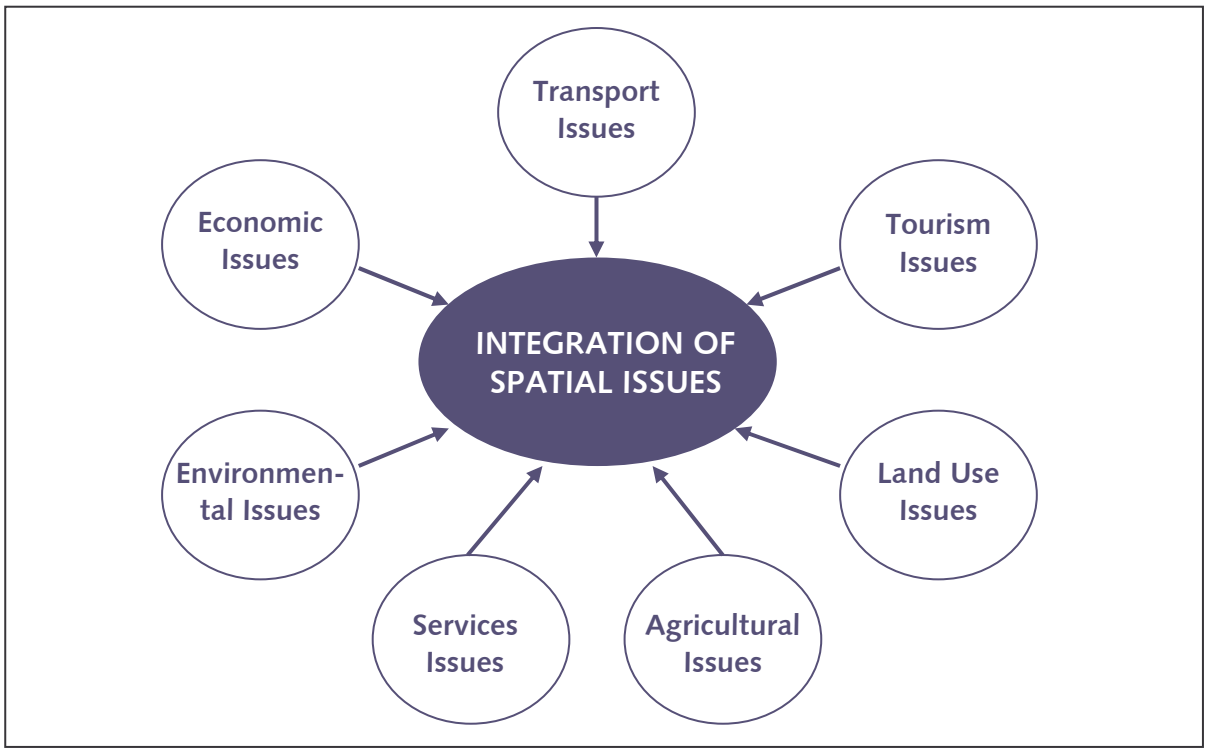

FIGURE 5: THE MULTI-SECTORAL INTEGRATED APPROACH / BASIS OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Within the context of the SDF process, development planning therefore implies a strategic and participatory process to integrate the spatial implications of the economic, infrastructural, transport, environmental and other strategies and sectoral investigations with a view to the optimal allocation of scarce resources to the various sectors and to supporting the whole of the population, which promotes sustainable growth and development.

The phased process and methodology followed relating to the compilation of the SDF is clearly explained and set out in Volume I.

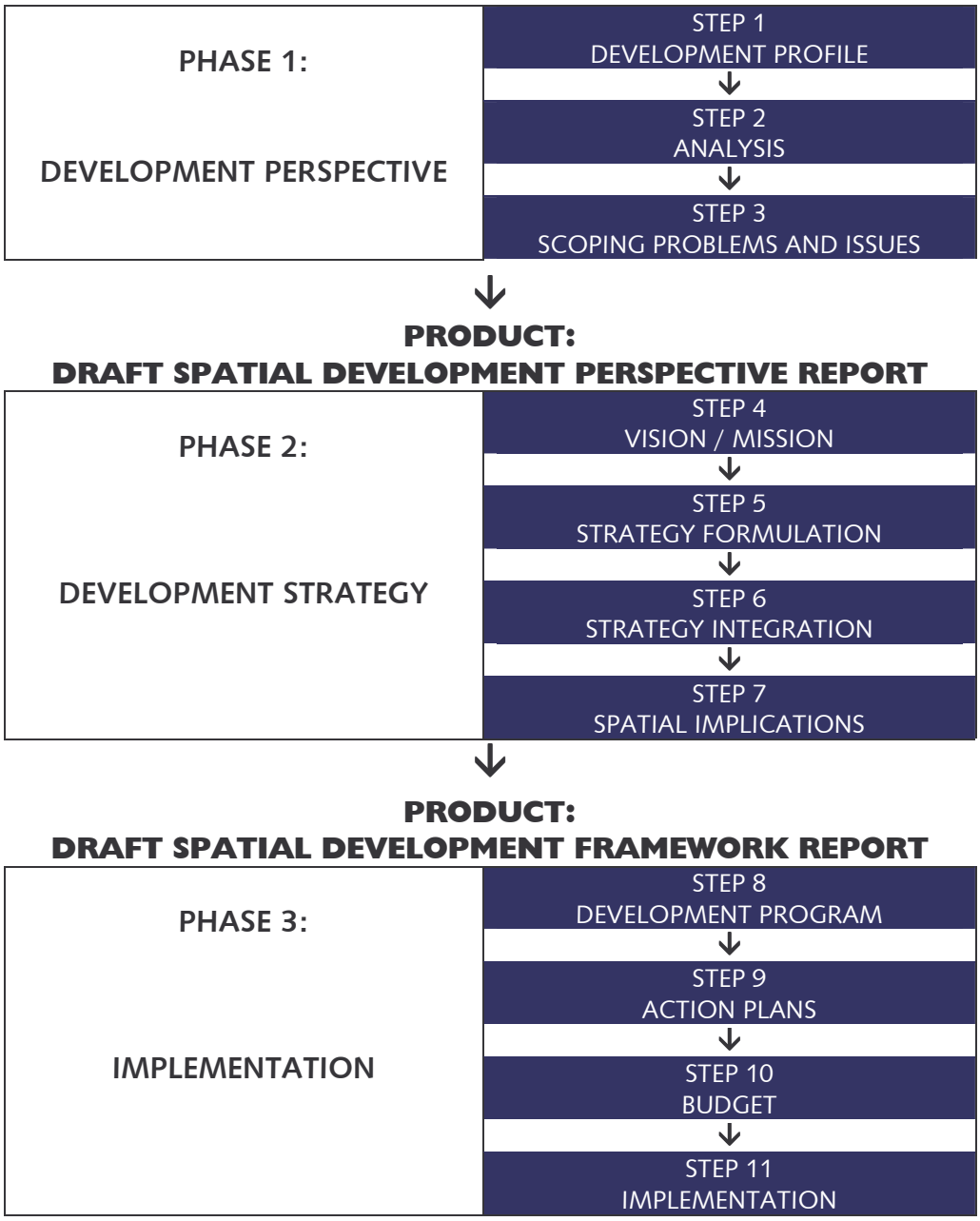

FIGURE 6: INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS

Figure 6 provides an illustration of the planning process in the formulation of development strategies and their integration.

The deliverables forthcoming from the development planning approach of this SDF are therefore to provide the following:

- ***Principles:***
  Land use and development principles for each of the bioregional spatial planning categories and guidelines for its implementation.

- ***Policies:***
  Land use and development policies to address issues of concern with a view to achieving the vision and guidelines for its implementation.

- ***Strategies:***
  Interventions to address developmental needs.

- ***Spatial Plan:***
  The plan indicating the spatial implications of the strategy integration process.

2.1.3 **Methodology**

- A Strategic Environmental Assessment Approach

SEA is seen as a process rather than the production of a report. It is characterised by its adaptive, continuing and incremental nature, and its broad scope to encompass sustainability issues and to focus on visions and initiatives rather than on concrete actions and outcomes. It is a systematic, ongoing process for evaluating at the earliest possible stage of publicly accountable decision-making, the environmental quality, and consequences, of alternative visions and development intentions to ensure full integration of relevant biophysical, economic, social and political considerations[2].

Both this SDF process and a typical SEA process formulate a broad environmental vision of what the process is aiming to achieve. Both processes are interdisciplinary, and both work proactively to achieve sustainable development by setting clear objectives of planning and development. Objectives of planning and future development of the municipal area are translated into firm policies to inform actions and priorities. Opportunities are made for participation by stakeholders throughout the process, which focuses on the early identification of strategic issues, opportunities and constraints in the municipal area. An analysis of the current situation (socio-economic, natural and built environments) is undertaken to inform the identification of trends, opportunities and constraints. Ways of addressing existing problems, overcoming or acting within the bounds of identified constraints, and exploiting opportunities within the framework of stated objectives are explored to arrive at an optimum outcome. That is, there is a continual implicit consideration of alternatives throughout the SDF process, and selection of the best practicable environmental option.

The formulation of spatial planning categories, as well as associated policies and strategies for action, strives to minimize adverse impacts by respecting environmental constraints, and translate opportunities into assets and/or benefits for the municipal area. The various strategies make provision for checks to track performance, allowing for continual improvement to the SDF.

[2] *Maria do Rosario Partidario. IAIA '04 Training Course Manual: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – current practices, future demands and capacity building needs.*