EXAMPLES OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE ALFRED NZO DISTRICT: 2010

Issues

of soil

and

water

resources

Causes

Effects / Manifestation of Impacts

Degradation

Alien plant infestation in catchments,

- Poor location / siting of services and infrastructure
- Urbanisation
- Uncontrolled harvesting of natural resources
- Lack of informed participation by stakeholders
- Limited compliance with environmental legislation

SOIL SPECIFIC

- Poorly managed agricultural practises e.g. vegetation removal through overgrazing & cultivation
- Infrastructure development e.g. roads and bad drainage design
- Uncontrolled fires
- Quarrying and sand mining

WATER SPECIFIC

- ➤ High sediment loads in rivers from soil erosion
- Alteration of natural water courses through development e.g. bridges
- Poor waste management practises resulting in pollution
- Increase in water consumptive activities e.g. housing, commercial forestry, etc

Environment

- Accelerated soil erosion and formation of dongas damaging productive and aesthetic landscape
- Decreased soil quality (loss of fertile topsoil)
- Decreased quantity of water
- Poor water quality
- Decreased biodiversity & ecosystem function
- Decreased resilience to climate change, with possible negative effects
- Increased flooding and drought severity, with increased frequency and severity of disasters
- Increased siltation of dams and rivers, with reduced water availability and sustainability

Government

- Increased demand for social services to counteract low productivity and household income
- Increased spending required to address damage to infrastructure through floods etc
- Increased crime rate due to unemployment, with necessity to increase protection and policing services
- Increased cost for delivery and purification of water
- Erosion of rule of law through decreased trust in governance structures through poor service delivery, as systems will not cope with overwhelming demands.

People

- Decreased crop yields and lower food security, with decreased nutrition and increased impacts on chronic disease and well being.
- Increased water borne disease incidence and mortality rates
- Migration to urban centres and out-migration to other more productive parts of the country, with consequent loss of economically people and decreased productivity.
- Break down of family structure and social fabric
- Decreased livelihood opportunities
- Decreased employment opportunities and increased crime

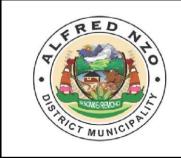
Economy

- Decreased crop yields and agricultural turnover
- Increased damage to infrastructure e.g bridges, with increased maintenance costs
- Decreased recreation potential on rivers for tourism
- Loss of revenue from decreased tourism activities
- Regional private and commercial sector collapse, due to out-migration of economically active people to areas of better opportunity.
- Land use limited to smaller range of activities
- Increased demand for social support and subsidies to counteract poor economic growth and returns









...and this is just soil and water.....



..watch this space.....