

matzikama



municipality

Matzikama Municipality

VOLUNTARY Local Review 2026



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ABBREVIATIONS

AAORIA	All Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance
CEF	Capital Expenditure Framework
DDM	District Development Model
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNU	Government of National Unity
GOGTA	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
LTFP	Long term Financial Plan
MERO	Municipal Economic Review and Outlook
MTPD	Medium-Term Development Plan
MISA	Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent
MYPE	Mid-Year Population Estimate
NDP	National Development Plan
PSP	Western Cape Provincial Strategic Plan
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEP	Socio-Economic Profile
UBPL	Upper bound poverty line
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
WCDM	West Coast District Municipality

KEY MESSAGES

- **Integrating SDGs into Municipal Planning.**

The Voluntary Local Review demonstrates the Municipality's commitment to aligning the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and related planning instruments with the SDGs. Through ongoing investment in water security, sanitation services, electricity infrastructure modernisation, sustainable settlements and institutional governance, the Municipality is strengthening sustainable development outcomes within the local context.

- **Strengthening Climate and Infrastructure Resilience.**

The VLR highlights the growing impact of drought, flooding, climate variability and infrastructure pressures on local communities, economic activity and municipal service delivery systems. In response, the Municipality is increasingly prioritising resilient infrastructure development, climate-adaptive planning, water resource diversification, renewable energy opportunities and sustainable settlement planning to strengthen long-term resilience and sustainability.

- **Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development.**

The VLR emphasises the importance of strengthening partnerships across government, academia, civil society, development institutions and the private sector to support sustainable development objectives. Strategic collaboration with institutions such as ICLEI Africa, MISA, UNISA and Jacob's Ladder Africa is contributing toward improved institutional capacity, knowledge-sharing, innovation, investment mobilisation and inclusive local development

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1. Introduction

In September 2015, the Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, marking the beginning of a new era of global cooperation and shared responsibility for people and the planet. At the heart of this Agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — universal, interconnected and transformative goals guided by the principle of “leaving no one behind.” These goals recognize that social progress, economic development and environmental protection are inseparable, and that sustainable development requires integrated action across all sectors of society.

The SDGs provide a shared global blueprint for peace and prosperity, calling on all countries — developed and developing — to work in partnership to end poverty, reduce inequality, improve health and education, promote economic growth, and safeguard the natural environment. They affirm that progress in one area strengthens outcomes in others, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach to development that secures the wellbeing of present and future generations.

For local government, the realization of the SDGs depends on translating global commitments into tangible local action. The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is an important instrument that enables municipalities to assess and reflect on their contribution to the SDGs in a transparent and accountable manner. Through the VLR, Matzikama Municipality evaluates its progress, identifies challenges, and highlights initiatives that advance sustainable development within our local context. It is both a reporting mechanism and a learning platform that strengthens governance, accountability and partnerships.

The purpose of this Voluntary Local Review is to bridge the gap between global aspirations and local realities. It empowers Matzikama Municipality to take ownership of the SDGs, aligning them with our unique developmental priorities, spatial realities and community needs. By doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to inclusive growth, social justice, environmental stewardship and responsive governance.

Matzikama Municipality’s Integrated Development Plan (IDP) 2022–2027 is deliberately aligned with the SDGs to ensure that our strategic objectives and municipal programmes directly support sustainable and inclusive development. The IDP serves as our principal strategic planning instrument, aligning municipal resources with community priorities while addressing both present demands and the needs of future generations.

Below, the Matzikama Local Municipality’s Vision, Mission, Strategic Objectives and values:

Vision: An efficient and sustainable organisation

Mission: To build a high-performance organisation that facilitates the development of a flourishing economic environment for all its stakeholders

Strategic objectives: The strategic objectives are broad statements of direction providing a coherent framework to guide decision-making, resource allocation, and the implementation of targeted interventions aimed at sustainable development and improved service delivery.



Values: The Council developed a set of guiding principles that are general guidelines setting the foundation for how the Municipality will operate. The guiding principles identify the Council's key values and link them to specific behaviours ensuring that the value becomes the Municipality's culture.

- 1) We believe that **trust** is essential for maintaining healthy, productive and supportive environments. Therefore, we will do the following:
 - a. Uphold integrity and transparency in all actions and decisions
 - b. Fostering an environment where open communication, accountability and mutual respect cultivate a strong foundation of trust among our employees and communities.
- 2) Because we believe in **ethical behaviour**, we will:
 - a. Commit to consistently upholding the highest standards of morality, honesty and fairness in all interactions and decisions
 - b. Ensure that all actions are aligned with established principles and legal frameworks to promote a culture of ethical behaviour and responsible conduct
- 3) We will seek continuous improvement in **teamwork**. Therefore, we will do the following:
 - a. Embrace collaboration and open communication
 - b. Fostering an inclusive environment that values diverse perspectives,
 - c. Empowers individuals and encourages supportive and cooperative interactions to achieve common goals

In November 2025, Council also adopted a new Spatial Development Framework (SDF), supported by a Capital Expenditure Framework (CEF) and a Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP). These strategic instruments are aligned with the SDGs, the National Development Plan, and the constitutional mandate of local government to ensure the optimisation of development opportunities, improved spatial integration, and expanded access to economic and social infrastructure for all residents of Matzikama.

This Voluntary Local Review demonstrates Matzikama Municipality's commitment to accountable governance, evidence-based planning, and collaborative action. It reflects our resolve to contribute meaningfully to the 2030 Agenda by ensuring that sustainable development is embedded in every aspect of municipal planning and service delivery — so that no community, and no individual, is left behind.

2. Local Context

Matzikama Local Municipality is situated on the north-west coast of the Western Cape and forms part of the West Coast District Municipality. The municipal area stretches across approximately 12,900 km², bordering the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Northern Cape to the north and east, and the Cederberg Local Municipality to the south.

Strategically located along the N7 national route — a vital corridor linking the Western Cape with the Northern Cape and Namibia — Matzikama serves as an important transit and economic gateway between provinces and neighbouring countries.

The municipal landscape is characterised by an arid and semi-desert environment, shaped by vast open spaces and fragile ecosystems. At the heart of this landscape flows the life-giving Olifants River. The river and its associated canal systems sustain the region's agricultural economy, particularly its renowned viticulture and irrigation farming sector. Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the local economy, supporting employment, agro-processing and export activity.

Settlement patterns in Matzikama are largely concentrated along the Olifants River corridor and canal system, where access to water has enabled towns and farming communities to flourish. Vredendal, the largest and centrally located town, functions as the economic and administrative hub of the municipality. Other towns and settlements include Doring Bay, Strandfontein, Papendorp, Ebenaeser, Lutzville-West, Lutzville, Koekenaap, Olifantsriviersettlement, Klawer, Vanrhynsdorp, Nuwerus, Bitterfontein, Kliprand, Putse-Kloof, Rietpoort, Molsvlei and Stofkraal. The Municipality is divided into eight wards to ensure effective governance and representation.

Matzikama reflects a diverse mix of rural, coastal and inland communities. The name “Matzikama” is derived from the Khoi language and is commonly interpreted as meaning “place of water” — a fitting description of a region where water defines settlement, agriculture and opportunity within an otherwise dry landscape.

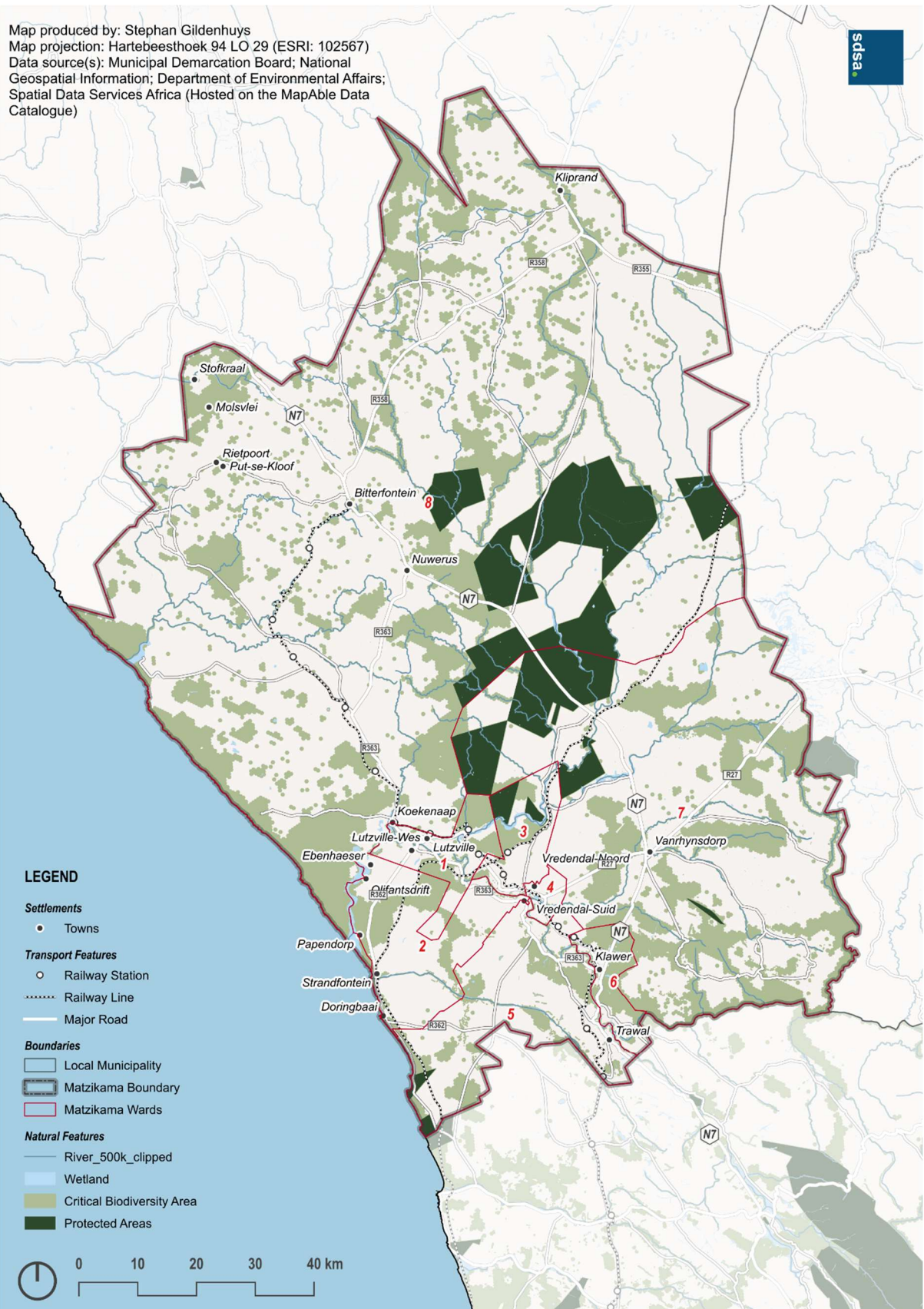
Matzikama's development trajectory is shaped by both its opportunities and constraints: water scarcity, climate variability, spatial inequality, unemployment, infrastructure backlogs and economic diversification remain pressing challenges.

Climate variability and environmental vulnerability are increasingly shaping the development trajectory of Matzikama Local Municipality. The growing frequency and intensity of climate-related events, including prolonged drought conditions and recent flooding incidents associated with the Olifants River system, demonstrate that climate risks are no longer theoretical concerns, but active threats directly affecting livelihoods, poverty levels, economic sustainability, service delivery systems and spatial accessibility within the municipality. Communities, settlements and the local agricultural economy remain highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors and critical water infrastructure, placing additional pressure on municipal infrastructure networks and vulnerable households during periods of environmental stress. In response, the Municipality has increasingly prioritised resilient infrastructure development, environmental sustainability and climate adaptation within its long-term planning processes. The adoption of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) in November 2025 further strengthened the integration of climate resilience, environmental

management and spatial sustainability principles into municipal spatial planning and future growth management. Matzikama's environmental significance within the Succulent Karoo and Fynbos biomes further highlights the importance of protecting biodiversity and ecological systems as part of long-term economic, environmental and social resilience.

At the same time, the municipality benefits from a diverse economic base supported by strong agricultural potential, agro-processing activities, fisheries, tourism assets along the West Coast, and its strategic location along the N7 corridor linking the Western Cape, Northern Cape and Namibia. Agriculture and related agro-processing industries remain key economic drivers within the municipality, while coastal fisheries, tourism and emerging renewable energy opportunities continue to contribute to local livelihoods and economic activity. However, these sectors remain highly vulnerable to drought conditions, flooding events, water insecurity and infrastructure disruptions, all of which can significantly impact production, mobility, investment confidence and market access.

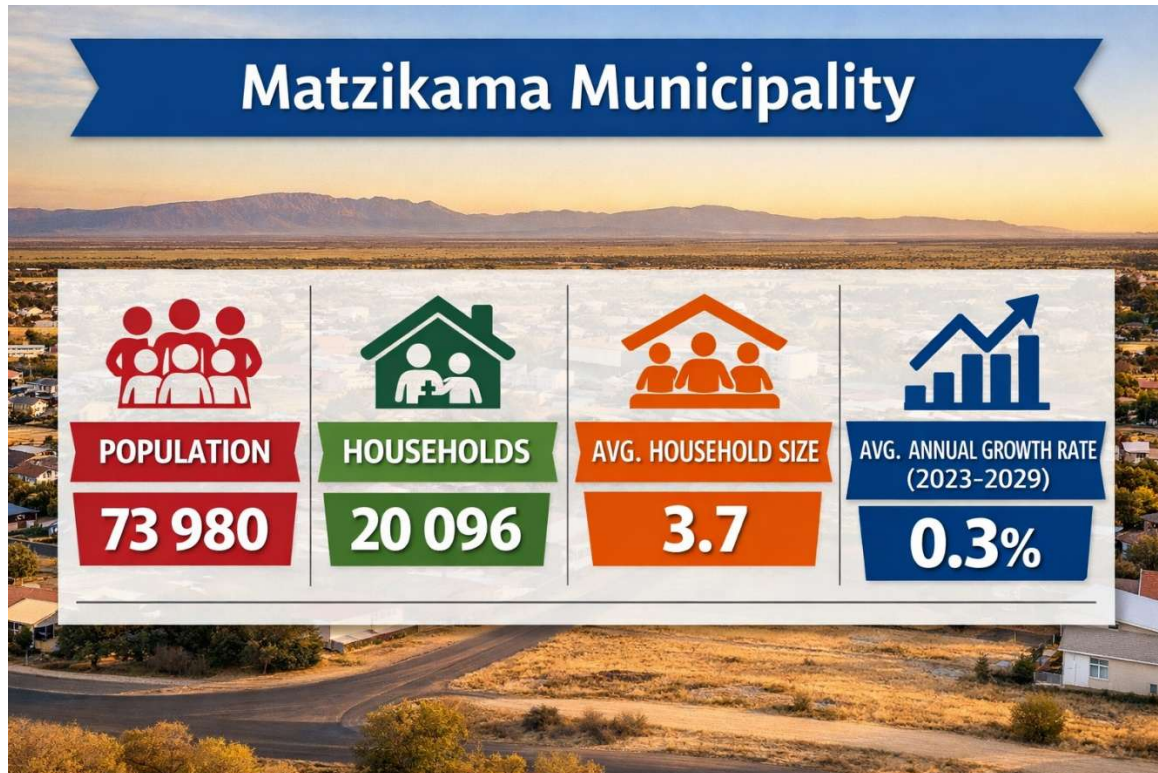
In response, the Municipality's Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy identifies economic diversification, investment promotion, job creation and poverty alleviation as key strategic priorities aimed at strengthening long-term economic resilience and reducing socio-economic vulnerability. Renewable energy development and broader green economy opportunities are increasingly recognised as important components of the municipality's future economic trajectory, particularly within the context of climate adaptation and sustainable development. These local strengths, together with growing partnerships across government, academia, civil society and the private sector, provide important opportunities to support inclusive economic growth, sustainable livelihoods and long-term resilience. By leveraging its natural, economic and social assets, while progressively strengthening climate resilience and environmental sustainability, Matzikama continues to position itself towards a more sustainable, inclusive and development-oriented future. Through its planning instruments and this Voluntary Local Review, the Municipality remains committed to aligning local development planning with the principles and objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in relation to sustainable settlements, climate resilience, environmental sustainability and partnership-driven development.



Map 1: Matzikama Local Municipality; Matzikama Local Municipality SDF

2.1 Demographics

According to the 2024 Socio-Economic Profile (SEP), published annually by the Provincial Treasury for each municipality in the Western Cape, Matzikama Municipality reflected the following key demographic indicators at the time of reporting.



The SEP provides municipalities with updated and credible socio-economic data, accompanied by relevant analysis of local trends and conditions, to inform integrated planning, budgeting processes, and the prioritisation and allocation of municipal services within the municipal area.

The profile draws on data primarily sourced from Statistics South Africa, administrative records from sector departments, the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook (MERO), Global Insight Regional Explorer, and Quantec and S&P Global Regional Explorer. Data obtained from sector departments represent the most recent information available at the time of publication. The Census 2022, conducted by Statistics South Africa, provides the latest official survey data at municipal level and has been supplemented in the current year with updates from the 2024 Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYPE), as well as the latest Quantec data revisions relating to service delivery levels.

In 2024, Matzikama Municipality has a population of 73 980, making it the second least populous municipality in the West Coast District. The population is projected to increase to 75 253 by 2029, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 0.3 per cent. This moderate growth is expected to increase demand for goods and services, potentially stimulating local economic activity, particularly in key sectors such as retail, healthcare and education.

Matzikama Municipality reflected a relatively balanced gender distribution, comprising approximately 50.2 per cent male and 49.8 per cent female. Variations in the sex ratio may occur over time due to migration patterns, economic opportunities, or the presence of industries such as agriculture and construction that traditionally attract a higher proportion of males. The municipality recorded a low population density of 5.7 persons per square kilometre, influenced by economic, social, connectivity and accessibility factors. Population density remains a critical indicator for urban planning, as it informs service delivery planning, budget allocation and environmental management within the municipal area.

2.2 Economy

Matzikama's economy is strongly anchored in its natural resources, with agriculture as the dominant sector. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing contribute 27.5 per cent to economic activity, with grape farming being the largest employer and supporting winemaking, raisin production, and related agribusinesses. Emerging activities such as abalone farming in coastal areas like Doringbaai are adding diversity to the primary sector. The agricultural sector is closely linked to manufacturing, which contributes 13.2 per cent of the municipality's economic activity, with winemaking as the principal manufacturing activity. Mining and quarrying contribute 3.1 per cent, with local operators Tronox extracting minerals such as zircon, ilmenite, rutile, magnetite, and garnet, used in the production of titanium dioxide pigment and other industrial applications.

The tertiary sector is supported by agri-tourism, finance, retail, business services, and community services. Finance, insurance, real estate, and business services contribute 14.4 per cent, wholesale and retail trade, catering, and accommodation 13.7 per cent, and community, social, and personal services 10.1 per cent. Urbanization, particularly in towns like Vredendal, has boosted consumer spending, benefiting retail and increasing demand for services such as insurance providers. Construction (3.1 per cent), transport, storage, and communication (6.8 per cent), electricity, gas, and water (2 per cent), and general government (6.2 per cent) further support economic activity, reflecting ongoing development and essential infrastructure.

Despite this diversified base, Matzikama's GDP declined by 1.5 per cent between 2022 and 2023. The agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector recorded a negative growth contribution of 1 per cent due to climate-related challenges affecting agricultural output. Wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation, and manufacturing each contributed -0.3 percentage points to the decline. Positive growth in finance, insurance, real estate, and business services (0.3 percentage points), transport, storage, and communication (0.2 percentage points), as well as general government and community services, partially offset the downturn, highlighting resilience in non-agricultural sectors.

Overall, Matzikama's economy is characterized by a strong agricultural foundation, significant manufacturing and mining activities, and a growing tertiary sector supported by urbanization and tourism. The recent contraction underscores the vulnerability of the local economy to climate risks, emphasizing the need for continued diversification and investment in sustainable practices to ensure long-term growth and stability.

Largest Economic Sectors — Matzikama



2.3 Poverty

Matzikama's per capita GDP in 2023 was R93 145, the second highest in the West Coast District. While this indicates a relatively strong economic output per individual, GDP per capita alone does not reflect how wealth is distributed across the population. High per capita GDP can coexist with significant income disparities, underscoring the importance of focusing on equitable growth and inclusive development strategies to ensure that economic gains benefit all residents.

Income inequality in Matzikama has historically been a concern. The region's Gini coefficient, which measures income disparity, rose from 0.57 in 2015 to 0.61 in 2021, likely exacerbated by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Encouragingly, the Gini coefficient fell back to 0.57 in 2023, signaling progress toward more equitable income distribution and alignment with the National Development Plan's goals for reducing inequality. This reduction suggests that interventions targeting social equity and economic inclusion may be having a positive effect.

Despite these gains, poverty remains widespread. According to the Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL), individuals earning less than R1,335 per month (April 2021 prices) are considered to be living in poverty. In 2023, 70.6 per cent of Matzikama's population fell below this threshold. High levels of poverty reflect structural challenges, including limited access to economic opportunities, social services, and essential resources. The consequences are profound, affecting access to education, healthcare, and basic living standards, and perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage.

Poverty furthermore remains one of the municipality's most significant development challenges, with certain communities experiencing disproportionately high levels of poverty, unemployment and socio-economic vulnerability. Poverty is particularly concentrated in areas such as Vredendal North, Lutzville, Lutzville West, Doring Bay, Papendorp, Ebenaeser, Koekenaap and Klawer, where many households remain dependent on seasonal agricultural employment, small-scale fishing activities or informal sources of income. Spatial inequality,

limited economic diversification and dependency on transport connectivity further increase the vulnerability of these communities, particularly in relation to access to employment opportunities, education, healthcare and essential services.

The Municipality's Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy identifies poverty alleviation, economic diversification and job creation as strategic priorities to support more inclusive and resilient local economic growth. At the same time, increasing climate-related shocks, flooding events and infrastructure disruptions continue to intensify existing socio-economic vulnerabilities. Vulnerable households are often disproportionately affected during disasters due to transport disruptions, damaged infrastructure and reduced access to essential services and economic opportunities, highlighting the growing interrelationship between poverty, spatial inequality, infrastructure resilience and climate adaptation within the municipality.

Addressing poverty in Matzikama requires targeted policies that expand economic opportunities, promote equitable resource allocation, and strengthen social welfare programs. By fostering economic resilience, inclusive development, and effective social safety nets, the municipality can work toward reducing poverty, improving social equity, and supporting long-term prosperity for all residents.

2.4 Basic Services

The Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to adequate housing and obliges the state to implement reasonable measures, using available resources, to progressively realize this right. Access to housing extends beyond shelter, encompassing essential services such as potable water, basic sanitation, safe energy sources, and refuse removal, which are critical for ensuring a decent standard of living. Municipalities play a central role in creating environments that promote private investment and local entrepreneurship, which in turn generate economic opportunities that benefit communities. Integrated approaches linking housing provision and economic development are therefore essential for improving living standards and supporting broader community resilience.

In the Matzikama municipal area, 20 096 households exist, of which 90.0 per cent reside in formal housing.

Access to Basic Services — Matzikama (2023)



Despite these positive indicators, pressures on water, sanitation, and electricity services are evident, particularly as population growth, urbanization, and climate variability place increasing demand on municipal infrastructure. Ensuring reliable and equitable access to these services is essential to prevent service backlogs, protect public health, and support inclusive development. Persistent disparities in access highlight the need for targeted interventions to extend services to underserved communities and strengthen the municipality's capacity to meet rising demand.

Free basic services remain a key instrument for supporting households facing financial hardship. While the number of households benefiting from these services in Matzikama declined between 2019 and 2023, ongoing economic pressures and constrained household incomes are likely to increase demand for free basic services, placing additional strain on municipal resources. The provision of these services not only mitigates the immediate impacts of poverty but also reflects the municipality's responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Growing demand, infrastructure pressures, and service disparities underscore the importance of sustained investment in water, sanitation, and electricity, as well as continued expansion of free basic services, to ensure that all residents can enjoy adequate living standards and access to essential amenities.

3. Methodology

The preparation of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) for Matzikama Local Municipality was guided by a pragmatic, data-driven and incremental approach to the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognising that reporting on specific SDG indicators is only possible where suitable, credible and verifiable data is readily available, the Municipality adopted a phased methodology aligned to its institutional capacity and existing reporting systems.

3.1 Data-Driven and Incremental Localisation of the SDGs

The localisation of the SDGs within Matzikama Municipality is understood as an evolving process. The ability to report meaningfully on SDG performance is dependent on:

- The availability of reliable and verifiable municipal data;
- Alignment with the municipal service delivery mandate;
- Integration with existing planning and reporting instruments; and
- Institutional capacity to collect, analyse and validate data.

As such, this VLR represents a baseline report, focusing on those SDGs and indicators for which data is currently available and aligned to the Municipality's core functions. The intention is to progressively expand reporting coverage in future VLR cycles as data systems improve and additional indicators become measurable.

3.2 Selection of Priority SDGs for Baseline Reporting

Based on local developmental priorities, service delivery responsibilities, and available data, Matzikama Municipality identified the following SDGs for initial reporting:

- **SDG 6** – Clean Water and Sanitation
- **SDG 7** – Affordable and Clean Energy
- **SDG 11** – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- **SDG 17** – Partnerships for the Goals

These goals directly relate to the Municipality's constitutional mandate for basic service delivery and cooperative governance and are supported by existing administrative and performance reporting systems.

At the same time, the Municipality acknowledges that several other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are strongly reflected throughout this Voluntary Local Review and within broader municipal planning and service delivery programmes, even though they are not explicitly reported on as part of this baseline assessment. These include, among others, SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). While the current baseline VLR prioritises a focused set of SDGs aligned to available local data and municipal core functions, the Municipality recognises the integrated and interdependent nature of sustainable development and intends to progressively expand future reporting coverage as institutional capacity, data systems and monitoring mechanisms continue to strengthen.

Although SDG 13 (Climate Action) is highly relevant given the Municipality's exposure to drought, recent flooding events and broader climate-related pressures, limited localised and disaggregated climate data is currently available. These climate-related risks have demonstrated the growing importance of strengthening local climate resilience, disaster preparedness and adaptive infrastructure planning within the municipal area. In recognition of current data and monitoring constraints, SDG 13 has not been explicitly included as part of the baseline reporting focus areas within this VLR. It is, however, envisaged that climate change reporting and related resilience indicators will be progressively incorporated into future VLR reports as data availability, institutional capacity and monitoring systems continue to improve.

Alignment between Matzikama Municipality Strategic Objectives and SDGs 6, 7, 11, and 17				
				
Strategic Objectives	6	7	11	17
1. An Efficient, Effective and Development-Orientated Municipality				
2. Economic Development and Job Creation				
3. Sustainable, Integrated and Resilient Human Settlements			 	
4. A Healthy and Safe Environment for Communities				
5. A Caring and Empowered Community				

3.3 Alignment with Existing Municipal Reporting Frameworks

To ensure institutional coherence and avoid duplication, the selected SDG indicators were aligned with:

- The Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP);
- Existing municipal performance management systems;
- Sector-specific operational data (e.g. water, sanitation, electricity, housing); and
- Established administrative and statutory reporting processes.

This approach ensures that SDG reporting is embedded within ongoing municipal planning, budgeting and performance monitoring processes, rather than functioning as a parallel or standalone exercise.

3.4 Selection of Indicators

Given that adequate data is not available for all global SDG indicators, a focused set of **domesticated indicators (denoted by “D”)** was selected. These indicators reflect local realities and are measurable within the current municipal data environment.

The following indicators were selected for baseline reporting:

SDG 6: Water and Sanitation

Description: Ensure availability of sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	
Targets	Indicator (s)
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1D: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to needs of women and girls in those vulnerable situations	6.2.1D: Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) hand-washing facilities with soap and water

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Description: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	
Targets	Indicator (s)
7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.D.1 Proportion of Household in licenced municipal supply area using metered municipal supply of energy

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Description: Makes cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	
Targets	Indicator(s)
11.1: By 2030, ensure everyone's access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services.	11.1.1.D: Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Description: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	
Targets	Indicator(s)
17.D.1 Active participation in multi-stakeholder partnerships/networks by way of knowledge sharing, technology/expertise and financial resources to further the developmental mandate of the Municipality and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	i. Partnerships/Networks with private and public sector, including State Owned Enterprises

3.5 Baseline Orientation of the VLR

This report constitutes the Baseline Voluntary Local Review for Matzikama Municipality. The selected SDGs and indicators are used for initial reporting and formulation purposes. Where available, additional data beyond the baseline year is included to provide contextual trend analysis and enhance interpretability.

The baseline nature of this VLR should therefore be understood as:

- A starting point for structured local SDG reporting;
- A reflection of current data availability and municipal capacity; and
- A foundation upon which future, more comprehensive VLRs will be developed.

3.6 Continuous Improvement and Future Expansion

The Municipality recognises that strengthening data systems, improving indicator disaggregation, and enhancing intergovernmental and stakeholder collaboration will be essential to deepening SDG localisation. Future VLR cycles will aim to:

- Expand the range of reported SDGs and indicators;
- Incorporate SDG 13 (Climate Action) as climate data systems mature;
- Improve data quality, comparability and consistency; and
- Further integrate SDG reporting into strategic planning instruments such as the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

Through this incremental and integrated methodology, Matzikama Municipality affirms its commitment to transparent, evidence-based reporting and to advancing sustainable development within the local context.

4. SDG: 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

4.1 Localizing SDG6 in Matzikama

Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. As the designated Water Services Authority, Matzikama Municipality is responsible for delivering potable water and sanitation services across a geographically extensive and predominantly rural area.

The municipality has made strong progress toward universal access and maintains high standards of drinking water quality. However, infrastructure constraints, climate variability, and population dynamics present ongoing challenges that require strategic intervention and investment.

At the same time, climate change and increasing climate variability are placing growing pressure on long-term water security within the municipal area. Recurring drought conditions, recent flood events, ageing infrastructure systems and the municipality's dependence on limited regional water resources continue to heighten operational and financial risks. These pressures reinforce the importance of integrated water resource management, climate adaptation planning and resilient infrastructure investment as key priorities within municipal planning and service delivery processes.

4.2 SDG Alignment with Municipal Planning

SDG 6 is embedded in the Municipality's:

- Integrated Development Plan (IDP)
- Water Services Development Plan (WSDP)
- Infrastructure Master Plans
- Water Resilience Plan and 5-Year Implementation Plan

These frameworks collectively guide service delivery, infrastructure investment, and long-term water security.

The Municipality increasingly recognises climate resilience, water conservation and ecological sustainability as integrated planning priorities. This includes strengthening adaptive infrastructure planning, promoting water demand management initiatives and supporting longer-term environmental interventions aimed at protecting water resources and ecosystem health.

4.3 Status of SDG Indicators

Table 4.1: SDG 6 Indicator Performance

Indicator	Description	Matzikama Performance	Status
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6.1.1D	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	99.3%	Near universal access
6.2.1D (a)	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services	93.9%	High, but improvement required
6.2.1D (b)	Access to handwashing facilities with soap and water	Basic access provided (proxy via household services)	Improving

5.4 Graphical Representation of Service Access

Figure 4.1: Access to Water vs Sanitation (%)

Service Type	Percentage (%)
Water Access	99.3
Sanitation Access	93.9

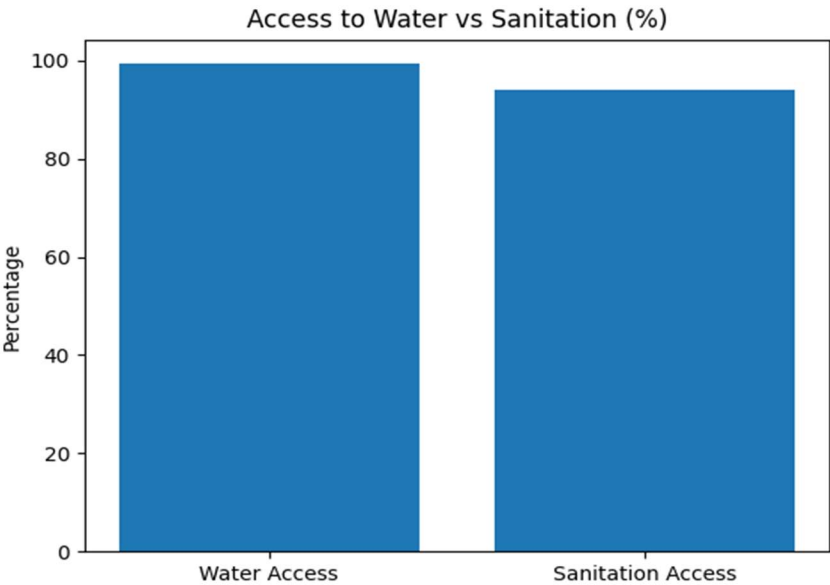


Figure 4.1: Access to Water vs Sanitation

Figure 4.2: Water Quality Compliance (2022/23–2024/25)

Compliance Type	Percentage (%)
Acute Health Compliance	100
Chronic Health Compliance	100

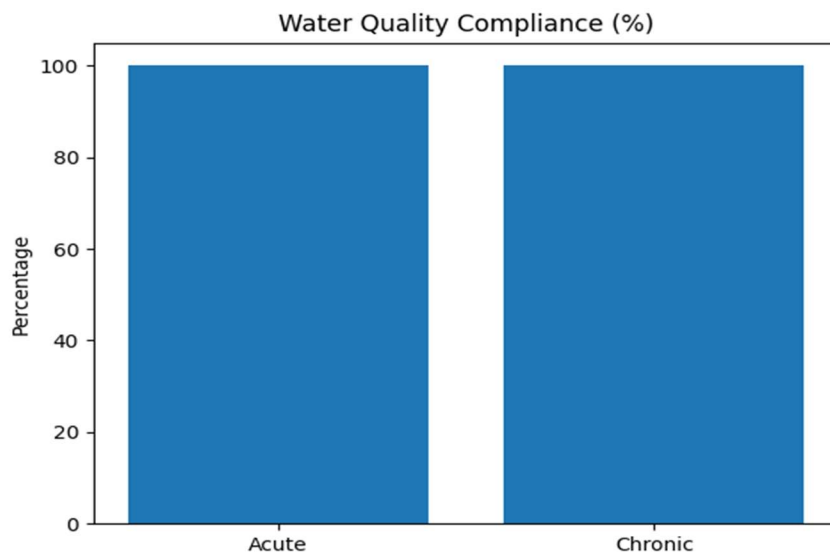


Figure 4.2: Water Quality Compliance

Figure 4.3: Wastewater Treatment Compliance

Compliance Category Percentage (%)

Microbiological	100
Chemical	69
Physical	74

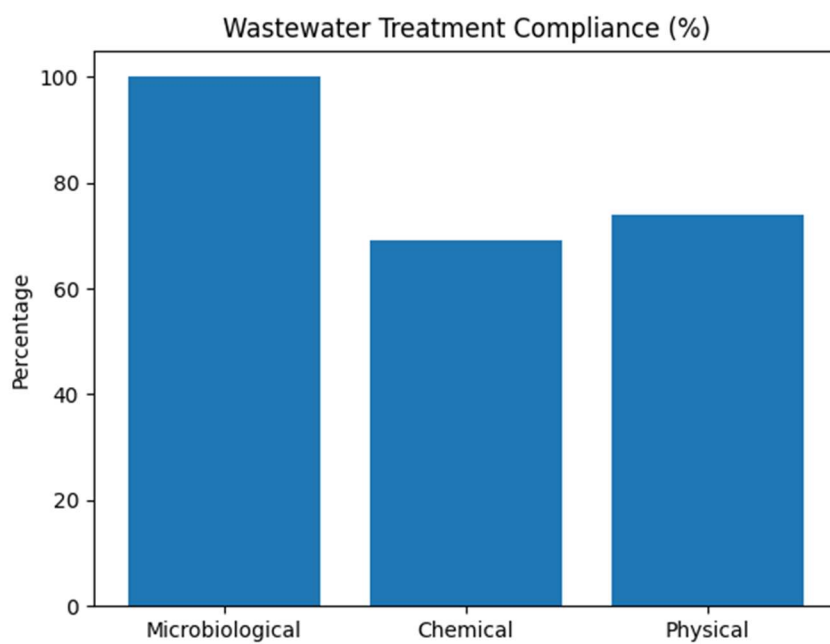


Figure 4.3: Wastewater Treatment Compliance

4.5 Key Achievements

4.5.1 Universal Access to Water

Matzikama Municipality has achieved 99.3% access to potable water, covering all major towns and settlements, including Vredendal, Vanrhynsdorp, Klawer, Lutzville, and coastal areas.

4.5.2 High Drinking Water Quality Standards

Over the past three years, the municipality has consistently achieved:

- 100% compliance with SANS 241 for both acute and chronic health parameters
- Continuous monitoring via the IRIS national reporting system
- Implementation of a Water Safety Plan

This reflects strong governance, technical capacity, and operational reliability.

4.5.3 Expanding Sanitation Services

With 93.9% access to sanitation, the municipality continues to extend services while maintaining strong microbiological compliance in wastewater treatment works.

4.6 Key Challenges

4.6.1 Ageing Infrastructure

- Infrastructure operating near or beyond design capacity
- Increased maintenance and operational strain
- Declining chemical and physical compliance in wastewater systems
- Flood-related damage and climate stress increasingly affecting infrastructure systems and maintenance requirements

4.6.2 Population Pressures

- Seasonal tourism influx (coastal towns)
- Migration and unplanned population growth
- Increased demand on water and sanitation systems

4.6.3 Climate and Water Scarcity

- Arid climatic conditions
- Dependence on limited water sources
- Increasing vulnerability to drought and climate variability
- Operational vulnerability during annual winter canal maintenance periods
- Increasing climate-related risks associated with droughts and flooding
- Invasive alien vegetation contributing to water scarcity and ecosystem degradation

These pressures highlight the growing importance of strengthening long-term water resilience, ecological management and climate-adaptive infrastructure planning across the municipal area.

4.7 Strategic Interventions

4.7.1 Infrastructure Modernisation

Priority projects identified in planning frameworks include:

- Upgrading bulk infrastructure
- Refurbishing wastewater treatment works
- Expanding reticulation networks
- Strengthening flood-damaged and vulnerable infrastructure systems

Infrastructure modernisation remains critical to improving operational reliability, reducing service disruptions and sustaining economic activity and community resilience within a climate-constrained environment.

4.7.2 Water Resource Diversification

Through the Water Resilience Plan, the municipality is:

- Exploring water reuse schemes
- Investigating alternative water sources
- Building climate-resilient supply systems
- Undertaking groundwater investigations to strengthen long-term supply security
- Supporting integrated water resource management approaches
- Promoting ecological restoration and catchment protection initiatives

4.7.3 Improving Operational Efficiency

Key focus areas:

- Enhancing wastewater treatment compliance
- Implementing smart water technologies
- Scaling up water conservation and demand management
- Strengthening water conservation and water demand management programmes
- Enhancing climate-responsive operational planning and monitoring systems

4.8 Partnerships and Investment Opportunities

Matzikama Municipality presents a strong investment case due to:

- Proven service delivery track record
- Clear infrastructure pipeline
- Completed resilience and implementation plans

Opportunities exist for:

- Public-private partnerships
- Development finance investment
- Technology and innovation partnerships

Partnerships with provincial and national government, water sector institutions, development finance institutions and technical stakeholders remain essential to mobilising investment, strengthening institutional capacity and supporting climate-resilient water infrastructure development. These partnerships also contribute toward advancing innovation, ecological sustainability and long-term water security planning within the municipality

4.9 Conclusion and Way Forward

Matzikama Municipality has established a strong foundation toward achieving SDG 6, with near-universal access to water and high levels of drinking water quality compliance.

Climate change, water scarcity, periodic drought conditions and recent flooding events continue to demonstrate the increasing vulnerability of water and sanitation infrastructure systems within rural municipalities. Seasonal winter canal maintenance cycles further create operational pressures that require careful management of storage capacity, demand and infrastructure resilience.

The challenges faced are increasingly linked to infrastructure lifecycle pressures, climate change, water scarcity, drought and flood risks, winter canal maintenance vulnerabilities, and changing population dynamics that place additional strain on municipal systems and financial resources. In response, the municipality has adopted a proactive, strategic approach focused on infrastructure modernisation, water security, and operational efficiency.

In response, the Municipality is progressively advancing an integrated and climate-responsive approach to water governance that combines infrastructure investment, operational efficiency, ecological sustainability, water conservation and long-term resilience planning.

By strengthening partnerships and mobilising investment, Matzikama is well-positioned to:

- Achieve full universal access
- Improve sanitation performance
- Enhance climate resilience
- Unlock economic development
- Strengthen long-term water security and climate adaptation capacity

The municipality remains committed to ensuring sustainable water and sanitation services for all, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

5. SDG:7 Affordable and Clean Energy

5.1 Localising SDG 7 in Matzikama

Sustainable Development Goal 7 seeks to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Reliable energy systems are fundamental to economic development, service delivery, public safety and the overall well-being of communities. At the municipal level, energy access directly supports progress across several other United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

For Matzikama Local Municipality, the provision of electricity services forms a critical component of local development and municipal service delivery. The municipality is committed to ensuring that residents have access to reliable, affordable and modern energy services while also planning for a transition toward more sustainable and diversified energy sources.

5.2 Energy Access and Distribution

Progress toward Universal Access

Under Target 7.1, which aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030, Matzikama Municipality has made significant progress. Currently, 96.6% of consumers within the municipal area have access to electricity, with all households receiving at least a basic level of electricity service.

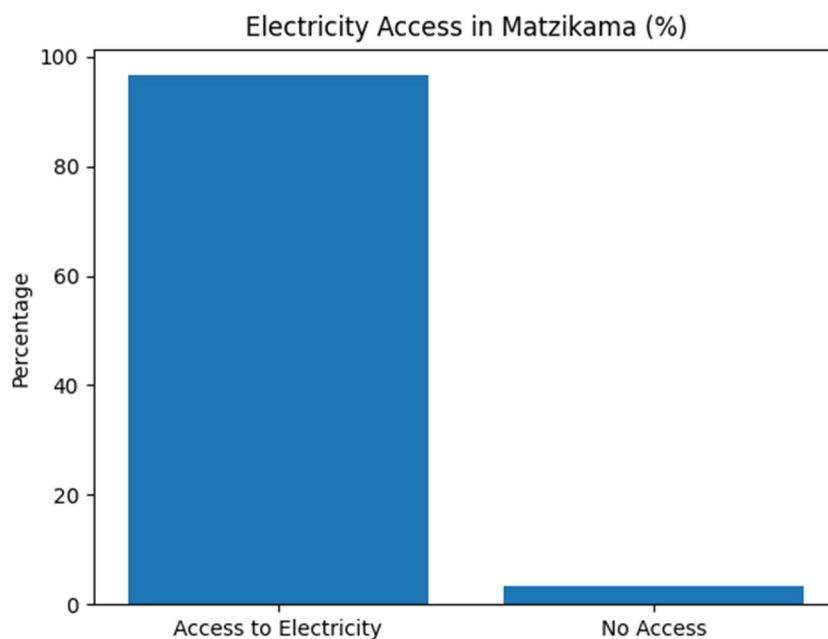


Figure 5.1: Access to Electricity in Matzikama (%)

Electricity distribution within the municipality is delivered through a combination of municipal and national utility services. Matzikama Municipality directly distributes electricity to seven settlements, while 11 additional settlements are supplied by the national electricity utility Eskom.

To ensure compliance with national electricity standards, the municipality adheres to the requirements of NRS 048, which regulates electricity quality and supply standards in South Africa. Supply voltages are maintained at:

- 230V ($\pm 10\%$) for single-phase connections
- 400V ($\pm 10\%$) for three-phase connections

These standards ensure that residents and businesses receive reliable and stable electricity services.

5.3 Modernisation of Energy Infrastructure

Matzikama Municipality has taken proactive steps to modernise its electricity infrastructure and improve energy management through technological innovation. Reliable and resilient electricity infrastructure is recognised as essential for sustaining economic growth, supporting agricultural and business activities, ensuring service continuity and enabling the effective functioning of communities and municipal services across the region.

A key achievement has been the replacement of approximately 95% of the municipality's metering infrastructure with smart metering systems integrated into a smart grid platform. This technological upgrade allows both the municipality and consumers to monitor electricity usage in real time.

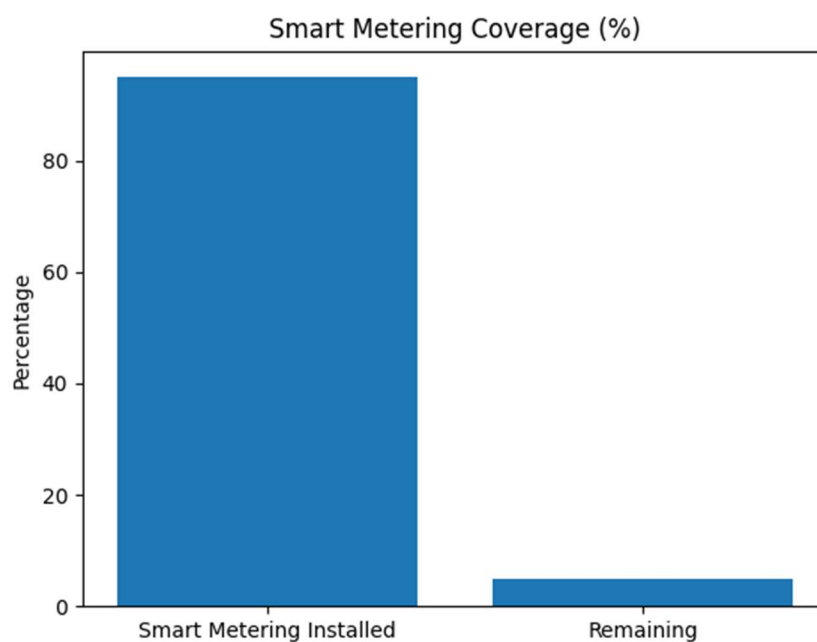


Figure 5.2: Smart Metering Coverage (%)

The smart metering initiative strengthens operational efficiency, improves consumption management and supports the long-term financial sustainability of the municipal electricity service. Enhanced monitoring capabilities also contribute towards reducing losses, improving billing accuracy and enabling more informed infrastructure planning and maintenance.

The introduction of a smart metering application provides residents with greater control over their electricity consumption, enabling them to monitor usage patterns and manage costs more effectively. This approach encourages responsible energy consumption and promotes greater energy efficiency within households and businesses, while also supporting broader sustainability objectives and more resilient local energy management practices.

The municipality's current Notified Maximum Demand (NMD) stands at 23,100 kVA, with an actual demand of 17,322 kVA, indicating that there is still some capacity available within the current system. However, the municipality has identified that the NMD for four of its supply systems will require upgrading to accommodate future residential growth and economic development.

Continued investment in electricity infrastructure and grid capacity upgrades will remain critical to supporting future economic expansion, maintaining reliable service delivery and enabling long-term development opportunities within the municipality.

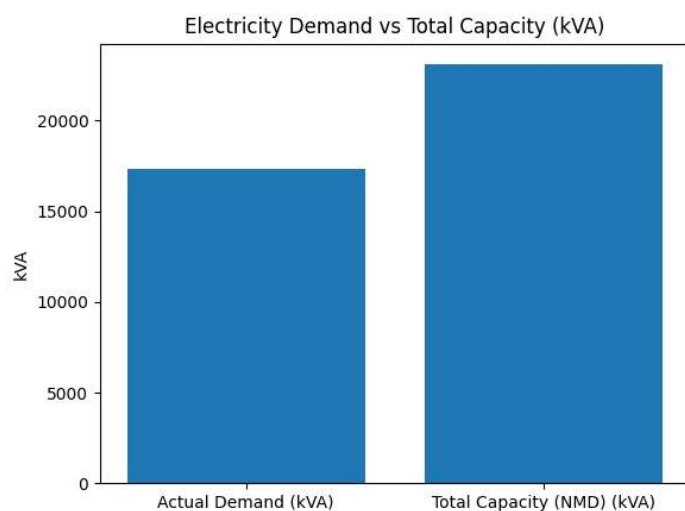


Figure 5.3: Electricity Demand vs Total Capacity (kVA)

5.4 Strengthening Energy Security

A major structural challenge facing the municipality is its historical dependence on Eskom for electricity supply. While Eskom remains the primary electricity supplier in South Africa, reliance on a single external provider exposes municipalities to risks related to supply reliability, tariff increases and national energy constraints.

These risks have reinforced the importance of improving local energy resilience, diversifying energy sources and modernising municipal electricity systems to ensure greater long-term stability and sustainability.

To address this challenge, Matzikama Municipality is actively promoting Small Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) within its electricity network. SSEG allows households, businesses and institutions to generate electricity locally, typically through renewable energy systems such as solar photovoltaic installations. In addition to strengthening local energy resilience, embedded generation creates opportunities for future green economic development, innovation and increased participation in the renewable energy sector.

By encouraging embedded generation, the municipality aims to:

- Reduce its overall electricity demand from Eskom
- Improve local energy resilience
- Support renewable energy uptake
- Enhance long-term energy affordability for consumers
- Create opportunities for future green economy growth and investment

This approach contributes to the broader national objective of diversifying South Africa's energy mix while supporting local energy security.

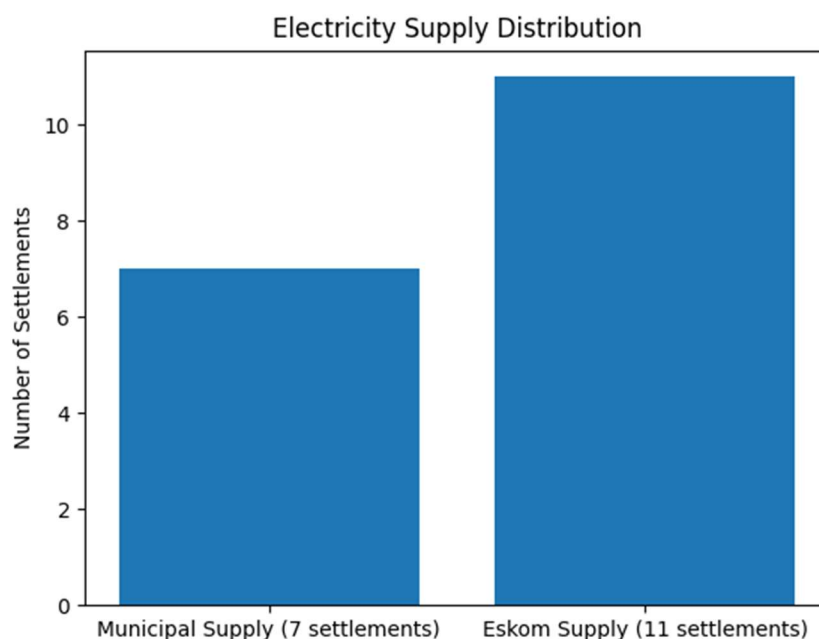


Figure 5.4: Electricity Supply Distribution by Service Provider

5.5 Transition to Renewable Energy

Recognising the need to diversify energy sources, strengthen energy security and reduce carbon emissions, the municipality is currently reviewing its Energy Master Plan to align future electricity planning with sustainability objectives and long-term infrastructure resilience.

A key component of the municipality's long-term energy strategy is the development of renewable energy infrastructure, particularly solar and wind generation projects. Renewable energy development is also recognised as a potential catalyst for future economic diversification, investment attraction, job creation and climate resilience within the municipality.

Feasibility studies are currently underway to assess the potential for introducing green energy into the municipal energy mix.

These studies include:

- Assessing opportunities for solar photovoltaic generation
- Investigating the feasibility of wind energy projects
- Evaluating the capacity of the existing municipal electricity grid to integrate renewable energy
- Exploring mechanisms to procure electricity from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) through long-term power purchase agreements

By diversifying its energy supply through renewable generation, the municipality aims to reduce its carbon footprint while ensuring that electricity remains affordable and reliable for residents and businesses.

5.6 Financial Constraints and Investment Needs

Despite the municipality's strong commitment to expanding sustainable energy infrastructure, progress is constrained by significant financial limitations.

Large-scale investments in renewable energy infrastructure, grid upgrades and energy generation facilities require substantial capital resources. Currently, the municipality does not have sufficient internal financial reserves to fund these projects independently.

In addition, grant funding received from the national fiscus is limited and often subject to implementation timelines that delay the rollout of critical infrastructure projects. As a result, the municipality must explore alternative financing mechanisms and partnerships to accelerate energy development initiatives.

Strengthening collaboration with development finance institutions, national government programmes and private sector partners will therefore be essential to mobilising the investment required to achieve long-term energy sustainability.

5.7 Monitoring Progress

Progress toward SDG 7 is monitored through several key indicators, including:

- Percentage of households with access to electricity
- Electricity supply reliability and voltage compliance
- Adoption of smart metering technologies
- Expansion of renewable energy generation and embedded generation systems

These indicators support evidence-based planning and help guide future energy infrastructure investments.

5.8 Conclusion

Matzikama Local Municipality has made substantial progress toward achieving SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, particularly through its high electrification rate, the modernisation of electricity infrastructure and the implementation of smart metering technologies. Reliable and resilient electricity infrastructure is recognised as essential for supporting economic growth, agricultural and business activities, effective municipal service delivery and the overall functioning of communities across the municipality. The introduction of smart metering technology and the promotion of embedded generation further demonstrate the municipality's commitment to innovation, operational efficiency, energy sustainability and improved service delivery, while also supporting more effective consumption management and long-term financial sustainability within the municipal electricity network.

At the same time, the municipality is actively exploring opportunities to diversify its energy mix through renewable energy development, including solar and wind generation projects. These initiatives will play a critical role in strengthening energy resilience, reducing reliance on external suppliers and supporting South Africa's broader transition toward a low-carbon energy system. Renewable energy and embedded generation initiatives also present important opportunities for future green economic development, investment attraction, job creation and improved climate resilience within the municipality.

However, the successful implementation of these initiatives will depend on securing adequate financial resources and strengthening partnerships with national government, development finance institutions and the private sector. By leveraging collaborative investment and innovative financing mechanisms, Matzikama Municipality aims to build a resilient, sustainable and affordable energy system that supports inclusive economic development, long-term infrastructure sustainability and improved quality of life for all residents.

6.SDG:11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

6.1 Localising SDG 11 in Matzikama

Sustainable Development Goal 11 seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In Matzikama Local Municipality, this goal is intrinsically linked to the way in which land is used, settlements are structured, and infrastructure is planned and delivered.

The Municipality's development context is shaped by its predominantly rural character, extensive geographic area and an economy historically centred on irrigated agriculture supported by the Olifants River system. While this has provided a stable economic base, it has also resulted in dispersed settlement patterns and uneven access to services and economic opportunities across towns and rural settlements.

Over time, the expansion of the municipal area and increasing service delivery responsibilities have placed growing pressure on infrastructure systems, particularly water, sanitation, electricity and transport networks. These pressures, combined with historical spatial inequalities, have contributed to persistent housing challenges and the emergence of informal settlement conditions in certain areas.

These spatial and infrastructure pressures are increasingly being intensified by climate-related risks, including droughts, flooding and extreme weather events. The May 2026 flood disaster further demonstrated the vulnerability of critical infrastructure systems, transport connectivity and vulnerable communities within the municipal area, reinforcing the importance of climate resilience, disaster preparedness and adaptive spatial planning as central components of sustainable settlement development.

In response, the Municipality has positioned its Spatial Development Framework (SDF) as the central mechanism to guide spatial transformation, infrastructure investment and the development of integrated and sustainable human settlements.

6.2 Spatial Development Framework and Settlement Restructuring

The Spatial Development Framework provides a long-term spatial vision aimed at addressing fragmentation and promoting more efficient and integrated settlement patterns. Central to this vision is the concept of infrastructure-led and spatially targeted development, which seeks to align land use planning with the capacity and expansion of infrastructure systems.

The SDF establishes a settlement hierarchy that directs growth toward key nodes such as Vredendal, Vanrhynsdorp, Klawer and Lutzville. By focusing development within these nodes, the Municipality aims to improve service delivery efficiency, support economic activity and reduce the cost of infrastructure provision.

Development is further guided within defined urban edges, promoting densification and infill development rather than outward expansion. This approach allows for the optimisation of

underutilised land, including municipal land and portions of Public Open Space where appropriate, while safeguarding valuable agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas.

At the same time, the SDF integrates environmental sustainability and climate resilience through the protection of ecological systems, improved water management and the gradual incorporation of sustainable infrastructure solutions.

6.3 Housing Demand, Informal Settlements and Land Availability

Access to adequate housing remains one of the most pressing development challenges in Matzikama. The Municipality faces a combination of housing backlogs, limited availability of serviced land and infrastructure constraints, all of which contribute to the persistence of informal settlements, backyard dwellings and overcrowded living conditions.

In certain areas, historical spatial inequality patterns and the location of vulnerable settlements within higher-risk areas further increase exposure to environmental and disaster-related risks. Informal and economically vulnerable households are often disproportionately affected by flooding, transport disruptions and infrastructure failures, particularly where dependence on daily income opportunities and public mobility is high.

These challenges are not isolated but are closely linked to broader spatial and economic dynamics, including population growth within towns, internal migration and limited economic diversification. In many cases, the lack of readily available, serviced residential land has been a key constraint, reinforcing the growth of informal and inadequate housing.

Indicator 11.1.1D: Proportion of population living in informal settlements or inadequate housing

Indicator 11.1.1D provides a critical measure of the Municipality's progress in addressing these challenges. While a consolidated percentage is currently being refined, municipal data confirms that informal settlements and inadequate housing conditions are present within several towns, reflecting ongoing pressure on the housing system.

The persistence of these conditions highlights the need for a comprehensive and integrated response that addresses both the supply of formal housing and the upgrading of existing informal areas, while also unlocking land for development.

6.4 Integrated Human Settlements and Land Release Strategy

In response to these challenges, the Municipality has adopted a proactive approach that combines spatial planning with targeted investment programmes aimed at transforming the human settlements landscape.

A central component of this approach is the release and servicing of municipal land for residential development. This includes the conversion of underutilised land, such as vacant municipal land and selected Public Open Spaces, into market-ready residential erven through rezoning, subdivision and the installation of internal services.

This land release strategy is particularly focused on key towns such as Vredendal, Lutzville and Vanrhynsdorp, where there is both demand and development potential. By increasing the supply of serviced land, the Municipality aims to directly reduce pressure on informal settlements while also creating opportunities for home ownership and incremental housing development.

This is complemented by the implementation of affordable housing programmes, including subsidised and GAP housing, as well as incremental housing models that allow households to improve their living conditions over time. These approaches recognise that housing delivery must be flexible and responsive to different income groups and household needs.

At the same time, the Municipality is pursuing the upgrading of informal settlements, focusing on the provision of basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity, as well as improved integration into the formal urban fabric. This ensures that existing communities benefit from improved living conditions while longer-term housing solutions are developed.

6.5 Infrastructure Investment as a Catalyst for Settlement Development

Infrastructure plays a central role in enabling sustainable human settlements. The Municipality's approach recognises that housing delivery and land development can only be successful if supported by adequate bulk and internal infrastructure.

As such, significant emphasis is placed on the upgrading and expansion of infrastructure systems, including water supply, sanitation, electricity reticulation, road networks and stormwater management.

Recent flooding events have further highlighted the importance of resilient infrastructure investment. Damage to roads, bridges and electricity infrastructure during the May 2026 flood event demonstrated the growing vulnerability of municipal infrastructure systems to climate-related shocks and reinforced the need for climate-adaptive infrastructure standards, improved stormwater systems and strengthened infrastructure resilience planning.

These investments are not only aimed at improving current service delivery but also at unlocking new areas for development and supporting future growth. In this way, infrastructure investment acts as a catalyst for both housing delivery and broader economic development.

Water security remains a critical consideration, requiring ongoing investment in infrastructure resilience, alternative water sources and improved system management.

6.6 Sustainable Settlements and Local Economic Development

The Municipality's spatial strategy also seeks to promote more sustainable and economically viable settlements. This includes the development of integrated communities that incorporate green spaces, climate-resilient infrastructure and improved urban design.

In addition, spatial planning is used as a tool to support local economic development through the strengthening of economic nodes, the development of mixed-use areas and the provision of infrastructure to support informal trading and small-scale enterprises.

These initiatives contribute to job creation, improved livelihoods and reduced economic vulnerability, particularly in smaller towns where economic opportunities are more limited.

The Municipality also recognises that resilient settlements are closely linked to economic resilience and social protection. Disruptions to transport connectivity, infrastructure systems and economic activity during disaster events can significantly affect livelihoods, food security and access to services, particularly for poorer and vulnerable households that depend on daily and seasonal income opportunities.

6.7. Partnerships, Financing and Implementation

The scale of the housing and infrastructure challenge requires a collaborative approach. The Municipality is therefore actively pursuing partnerships with the private sector, development finance institutions, national and provincial government and international stakeholders aligned with SDG priorities.

A range of financing mechanisms is being explored, including public-private partnerships, grant funding and development finance, supported by municipal revenue streams such as the sale of serviced erven and development contributions.

Implementation is coordinated across municipal directorates, with the Spatial Development Framework and Integrated Development Plan providing the strategic and operational alignment. A phased approach ensures that immediate priorities are addressed while enabling longer-term expansion and consolidation of settlements.

6.8 Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Resilience and Flood Recovery

Climate resilience and disaster risk reduction are becoming increasingly important components of sustainable settlement development within Matzikama Local Municipality. This became particularly evident during the severe flooding event that affected the municipal area between 13 and 15 May 2026, when rapidly rising water levels in the Olifants River system caused widespread flooding across several areas. Matzikama was the most severely affected municipality within the West Coast District, with the flood reportedly exceeding the historic 1:100-year flood level.

The disaster highlighted the vulnerability of critical infrastructure systems and settlements to climate-related risks. Roads, bridges, electricity infrastructure and water systems sustained significant damage, while disruptions to transport routes affected mobility, emergency response coordination and economic activity. The temporary disconnection between Vredendal North and Vredendal South, together with the isolation of western settlements, further exposed underlying spatial and socio-economic vulnerabilities within the municipal area.

The flood also demonstrated how climate-related disasters disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, particularly households dependent on daily income opportunities, public transport and access to essential services. In this way, the disaster reinforced the interrelationship between SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

In response, the Municipality activated coordinated disaster response mechanisms through a Joint Operations Centre and worked closely with provincial and national government

departments, disaster management structures and humanitarian partners. The event further reinforced the importance of resilient infrastructure investment, climate adaptation planning and intergovernmental cooperation.

The Municipality recognises that future settlement planning and infrastructure development must increasingly incorporate climate resilience, disaster preparedness and adaptation considerations. As climate-related risks continue to intensify, resilient roads, bridges, stormwater systems, water infrastructure and climate-responsive spatial planning will become increasingly important in supporting sustainable, inclusive and resilient communities.

6.9 Conclusion

Matzikama Municipality's approach to SDG 11 is rooted in the understanding that sustainable development requires both spatial transformation and targeted investment in human settlements.

By aligning land release, housing delivery, infrastructure investment and spatial planning, the Municipality is working to address informal settlement growth, reduce housing backlogs and improve access to basic services.

The Spatial Development Framework provides a coherent roadmap for this transformation, while strategic partnerships and investment programmes enable practical implementation. Through these combined efforts, the Municipality aims to create integrated, resilient and sustainable communities that support long-term social, economic and environmental well-being.



7. SDG:17 Partnership for the Goals

7.1 Localising SDG 17 in Matzikama

Sustainable Development Goal 17 recognises that the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals depends on strong partnerships across governments, institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society. At the local level, SDG 17 serves as a critical enabling goal that supports the implementation of all other SDGs by strengthening governance systems, resource mobilisation, data sharing and collaborative problem-solving.

For Matzikama Local Municipality, SDG 17 plays a particularly important role. As a predominantly rural municipality with dispersed settlements, infrastructure backlogs and limited own-revenue capacity, partnerships are essential mechanisms for development delivery. The implementation of the Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Spatial Development Framework (SDF) relies on effective collaboration between the three spheres of government, as well as partnerships with development institutions, research organisations, and community stakeholders.

Through these partnerships, the municipality is able to mobilise financial resources, access specialised technical expertise, strengthen institutional capacity and promote inclusive participation in local governance. In doing so, Matzikama contributes to the localisation of the SDGs while aligning municipal development priorities with national and global sustainability commitments.

7.2 Intergovernmental Cooperation

Matzikama Municipality operates within South Africa's constitutionally defined system of cooperative governance, which requires alignment between national, provincial and local development frameworks. Collaboration with the Western Cape Government, sector departments and the West Coast District Municipality is therefore central to municipal planning and service delivery.

Intergovernmental cooperation supports the alignment of municipal priorities with national development strategies and provincial sector plans. Key areas of cooperation include:

- Bulk water and sanitation infrastructure planning
- Drought mitigation and water security initiatives
- Disaster risk reduction and emergency coordination
- Environmental management and land use compliance
- Infrastructure grant planning, implementation and reporting

Through these coordinated efforts, local development initiatives contribute to broader national policy objectives while supporting the achievement of the global SDG agenda.

Partnership with the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent

A key example of intergovernmental collaboration is the municipality's long-standing partnership with the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), a national entity established to strengthen municipal infrastructure capacity and accelerate service delivery.

Matzikama faces several structural infrastructure challenges, including ageing water and sanitation systems, limited internal engineering capacity and climate-related risks affecting infrastructure resilience. Through technical support programmes aligned with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs District Development Model, MISA provides specialised engineering expertise, infrastructure planning support and assistance with project preparation and funding applications.

This partnership enables the municipality to strengthen infrastructure planning and implementation capacity while maintaining essential service delivery despite resource constraints. The collaboration demonstrates how coordinated support between national and local government institutions can strengthen municipal resilience and institutional capacity.

7.3 Climate Action and International Partnerships

Partnership with ICLEI Africa

Matzikama Municipality has established a partnership with ICLEI Africa to strengthen climate governance and sustainable energy planning. ICLEI Africa forms part of the global network ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, which has worked for more than thirty years with local and subnational governments to develop solutions for resilient and sustainable cities.

Through this partnership, the municipality participates in the Accelerating Climate Act Implementation Locally (ActLoc) Project, which supports municipalities in implementing the Climate Change Act at the local level. Project activities include conducting a municipal climate readiness assessment, developing a localised Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework aligned with national guidelines from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, and mapping climate finance flows to improve access to funding opportunities.

The collaboration also connects to the Just Municipal Embedded Generation (JMEG) Project, implemented in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Green Climate Fund. The project explores innovative financing models for renewable energy infrastructure, including solar photovoltaic and wind energy projects that can be integrated into municipal electricity networks.

These initiatives strengthen municipal capacity to respond to climate change, improve energy resilience and contribute to South Africa's Just Energy Transition. The partnership also demonstrates how international cooperation can support municipalities in implementing national climate legislation while advancing SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

7.4 Knowledge and Innovation Partnerships

Academic Collaboration with the University of South Africa (UNISA)

In 2026, Matzikama Municipality formalised a strategic partnership with the University of South Africa (UNISA) through a Memorandum of Agreement aimed at strengthening research collaboration, knowledge exchange and innovation.

The partnership supports collaborative research projects, technical knowledge sharing and training initiatives that enhance evidence-based municipal planning. Priority areas include climate change adaptation, water security, coastal management, sustainable fisheries, biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism.

The collaboration also explores positioning Matzikama as a research beacon site within the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA), linking the municipality to international research networks focused on marine and coastal sustainability.

This partnership contributes to strengthening institutional capacity while connecting local development challenges to global research and innovation networks.

7.5 Youth and Green Economy Partnerships

Partnership with Jacob's Ladder Africa

Matzikama Municipality has established a strategic partnership with Jacob's Ladder Africa (JLA) to promote youth empowerment, climate-responsive development and inclusive green economy growth within the municipal area. The partnership responds directly to the high levels of unemployment and socio-economic vulnerability experienced within the municipality, particularly amongst youth and women, through practical and sustainable economic development interventions.

The collaboration is implemented through the *Phakama Matzikama – Let's Rise Up Youth Engagement Initiative*, which provides a platform for young people to participate in climate-responsive livelihood opportunities, green economy skills development and sustainable local enterprise development initiatives. The programme seeks to position Matzikama as a local green economy hub by strengthening the link between environmental sustainability, economic inclusion and community resilience.

Key programme areas include renewable energy awareness and training, sustainable agriculture and aquaponics initiatives, waste management and recycling programmes, waste-to-value and circular economy initiatives, enterprise development for women and youth, green skills training, food security initiatives and climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. Specific focus is placed on developing local capacity in renewable energy technologies, including solar installation and maintenance, while also promoting sustainable agricultural systems that support water-efficient food production and local economic participation.

The partnership further promotes the development of youth-led green enterprises and community-based economic opportunities through skills transfer, training, mentorship and enterprise incubation support. Proposed interventions include the establishment of aquaponics production sites, youth-managed recycling and waste recovery initiatives, renewable energy learnership programmes and integrated green economic hubs that combine training, production and enterprise development opportunities.

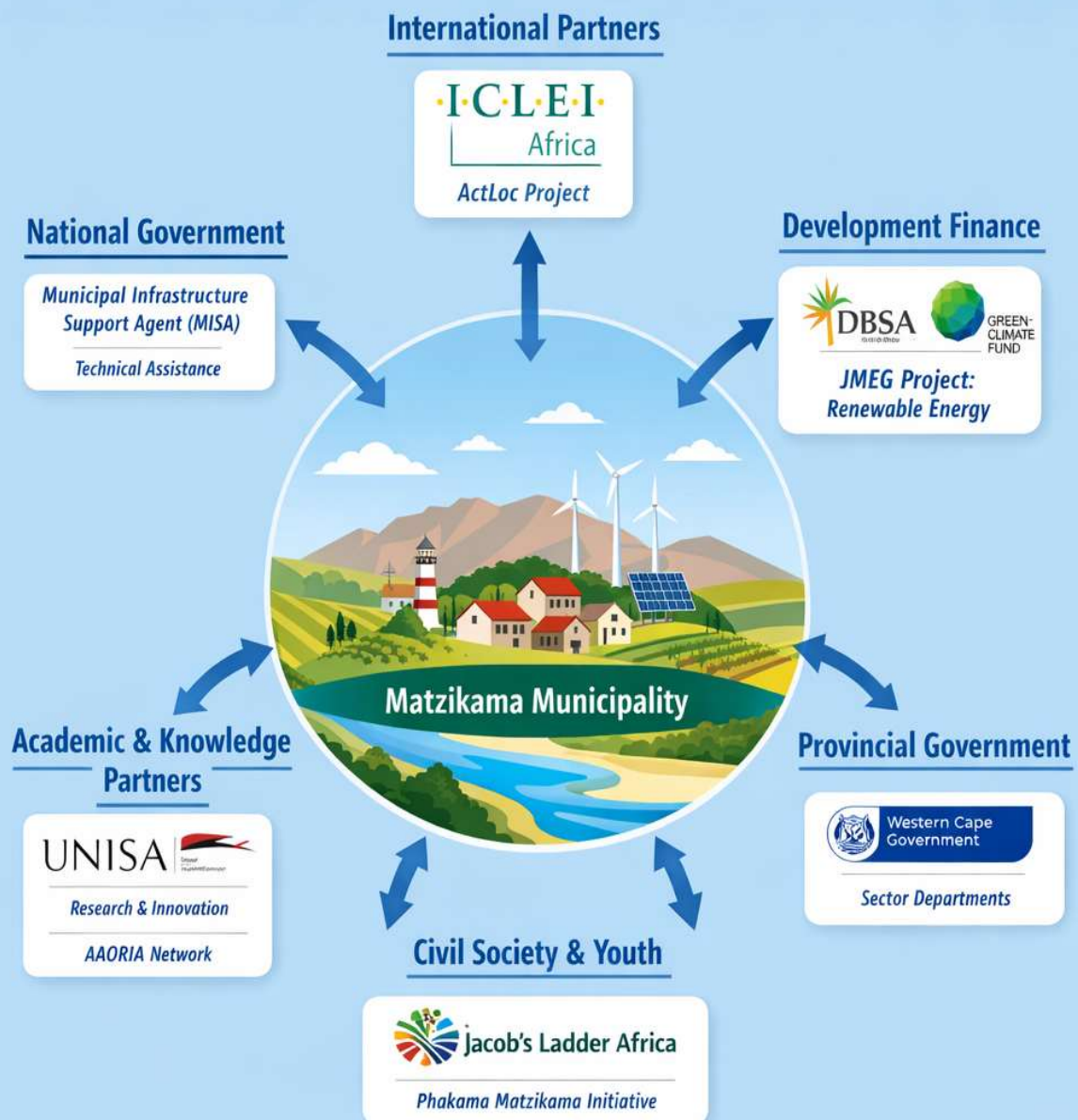
Through these initiatives, the Municipality aims to strengthen climate resilience, support sustainable livelihoods, improve food security, reduce pressure on landfill sites through waste diversion and recycling, and create opportunities for inclusive economic participation. The partnership also contributes towards building local resilience against climate-related challenges such as drought, water insecurity and economic vulnerability through sustainable and environmentally responsible development approaches.

The Municipality further recognises the importance of strategic partnerships in advancing sustainable development and economic diversification and continues to explore opportunities for collaboration with civil society organisations, the private sector, educational institutions and development partners to support green economy transition and local economic activation.

Through the Jacob's Ladder Africa partnership and related green economy initiatives, the Municipality contributes to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), while strengthening local youth participation, climate resilience and sustainable development within the Matzikama municipal area.

Matzikama Partnership Map

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals



Strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Development





7.6 Financing for Sustainable Development

Financial sustainability remains a structural challenge for rural municipalities. Matzikama relies significantly on intergovernmental fiscal transfers, including the equitable share and conditional infrastructure grants. At the same time, the municipality continues to balance increasing infrastructure investment needs, widespread socio-economic pressures, service delivery demands and the need to support local economic growth and job creation within a constrained fiscal environment.

Reliable and resilient infrastructure remains essential not only for basic service delivery, but also for sustaining economic activity across key sectors such as agriculture, agro-processing, fisheries, tourism and small business development. Strategic infrastructure investment therefore serves as an important economic enabler that supports productivity, investment confidence, regional connectivity and long-term municipal sustainability.

To strengthen financial resilience, the municipality prioritises:

- Strengthening public financial management systems
- Revenue enhancement and debt management strategies
- Performance-based budgeting processes
- Audit compliance and fiscal transparency

These measures, combined with strategic partnerships with provincial and national institutions, development finance institutions, state entities and the private sector, enable the municipality to continue investing in resilient infrastructure and service delivery despite fiscal constraints. Such partnerships remain critical to unlocking technical support, external funding opportunities and long-term investment required to strengthen local economic resilience and sustainable development outcomes.

7.7 Participatory Governance and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Inclusive governance is essential for the localisation of the SDGs. Matzikama promotes participatory decision-making through ward committees, public participation forums, stakeholder consultations and engagement with business and agricultural associations.

These mechanisms strengthen accountability and transparency while ensuring that community priorities inform development planning and resource allocation.

7.8 Challenges and Risks

Despite progress, the municipality faces several structural constraints that affect development implementation. These include:

- High dependence on external funding
- Limited specialised technical capacity
- Infrastructure maintenance backlogs
- Delays in intergovernmental funding transfers
- Climate-related risks affecting water security and agriculture

Addressing these challenges requires continued collaboration with development partners and government institutions.

7.9 Monitoring Partnerships

Progress under SDG 17 is monitored through the indicator:

Number of active strategic partnerships supporting municipal development priorities.

Current partnerships include collaborations with institutions such as the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent, ICLEI Africa, the University of South Africa, and Jacob's Ladder Africa, among others.

Monitoring these partnerships helps the municipality evaluate the effectiveness of collaborative governance arrangements and strengthen institutional capacity for SDG localisation.

7.10 Conclusion

SDG 17 provides the institutional foundation that enables progress across all other Sustainable Development Goals in Matzikama Municipality. Through partnerships with government institutions, international organisations, academic institutions and civil society, the municipality is strengthening governance systems, mobilising resources and enhancing its capacity to address complex development challenges.

These partnerships enable the municipality to advance climate action, infrastructure development, youth empowerment and sustainable economic development while strengthening resilience in the face of environmental and socio-economic pressures.

By continuing to deepen collaborative governance and expand multi-stakeholder partnerships, Matzikama Municipality is reinforcing its commitment to the localisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and building a sustainable future for its communities.

8. Conclusion

This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) reflects Matzikama Local Municipality's commitment to localising the Sustainable Development Goals through integrated, evidence-based planning and responsive service delivery. As a baseline assessment, the VLR demonstrates both the progress made and the structural challenges that must be addressed to achieve sustainable development within a predominantly rural and spatially dispersed municipality.

Across the four priority goals—SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)—a clear and interdependent development pathway emerges. These goals are not implemented in isolation; rather, they collectively form the foundation of inclusive growth, environmental sustainability and institutional resilience in Matzikama.

Significant progress has been achieved in basic service delivery, particularly under SDG 6 and SDG 7. Near-universal access to water and high levels of electrification, supported by improvements in water quality management and smart energy infrastructure, reflect a municipality that is actively investing in the wellbeing of its residents. At the same time, persistent challenges—such as ageing infrastructure, climate-induced water scarcity, energy supply risks and financial constraints—highlight the need for sustained investment and innovation.

Under SDG 11, the Municipality's Spatial Development Framework provides a long-term vision for transforming fragmented settlement patterns into more integrated, resilient and sustainable communities. By prioritising compact urban development, infrastructure alignment, environmental protection and economic diversification, Matzikama is laying the groundwork for settlements that are both inclusive and adaptable to future pressures, including climate change and population dynamics.

Crucially, the achievement of these goals is enabled and accelerated through SDG 17, which underscores the central role of partnerships. The Municipality's collaboration with national and provincial government, development agencies, academia and civil society demonstrates that sustainable development is a shared responsibility. These partnerships enhance access to funding, technical expertise and innovation, while strengthening governance systems and participatory processes. In a resource-constrained environment, such collaboration is not optional but essential.

A key insight emerging from this VLR is that infrastructure development, spatial planning, energy transition and partnership-building must be pursued in an integrated manner. Water

security supports human settlement development; energy resilience underpins economic growth; spatial planning ensures efficient service delivery; and partnerships provide the means to implement and sustain these interventions. Together, they form a coherent system that advances the Municipality's constitutional mandate and aligns with national and global development frameworks.

As a baseline report, this VLR also highlights the importance of strengthening data systems, improving indicator tracking and expanding reporting capacity. Future VLR cycles will build on this foundation by incorporating additional goals—particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action)—and enhancing the depth, quality and disaggregation of data to support more targeted and measurable interventions.

Looking ahead, Matzikama Municipality remains committed to:

- Consolidating gains in basic service delivery and infrastructure provision
- Advancing energy diversification and climate resilience
- Promoting inclusive, well-planned and sustainable settlements
- Expanding strategic partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms
- Strengthening institutional capacity and data-driven governance

Ultimately, this VLR reaffirms the Municipality's vision of an efficient and sustainable organisation that enables a flourishing local economy and improved quality of life for all residents. By embedding the SDGs within its Integrated Development Plan and broader strategic frameworks, Matzikama is translating global commitments into practical local action—ensuring that development is inclusive, resilient and sustainable, and that no community is left behind.



9. References

- Matzikama Local Municipality Socio-economic Review and Outlook, 2025
- Matzikama Local Municipality LED Strategy
- Matzikama Integrated Development Plan 2022–2027 (Draft 2026/2027 Review)
- Matzikama Spatial Development Framework (Adopted November 2025)

10. Appendices

Appendix A: Matzikama VLR process steps

Date	Content	Participants
26 September 2025	Phase 2: Matzikama participated in the online Salga workshop to introduce the VLR process	Deoné Wessels – Strategic Services
	Matzikama selected to participate in the “Localizing SDGs through VLRs”.	
21-25 October 2025	A National Workshop on Training and Peer Learning on SDG Localization, Voluntary Local Reviews, and Infrastructure Asset Management was convened in Johannesburg for national and local government officials, co-organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSDG/UNDESA), the National Planning Commission Secretariat and SALGA, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office and UNDP South Africa, to strengthen capacity and coordination in advancing SDG implementation.	Deoné Wessels
27 October 2025	Feedback meeting with Municipal Manager on VLR process	
29 October 2025	Report back to MAYCO on VLR Process	MAYCO
27 November 2025	Council approves and confirms Matzikama’s commitment to participate in Phase 2 of the SDG Support Programme to advance the localisation of the SDGs and the preparation of a Voluntary Local Review (VLR).	Council
December 2025	Selection of SDG’s to be covered in VLR and selection of SDG Champions to lead each goal	Municipal Manager & Manager Strategic Services

29 January 2026	• Inception meeting with SDG Champion group.	SDG Champions
6 February 2026	• SALGA follow up meeting with Matzikama. Emphasis placed on content requirement of VLR.	SDG Champions
27 March 2026	• Draft VLR serve before Council	Council
8&9 April 2026	• Public Consultation during UNISA workshop	Stakeholder groups and partners
April/May 2026	• Public participation as part of IDP and budget process	Community
8 May 2026	• VLR Validation Workshop	Stakeholder groups and Community
28 May 2026	• Final VLR serve before Council	Council



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