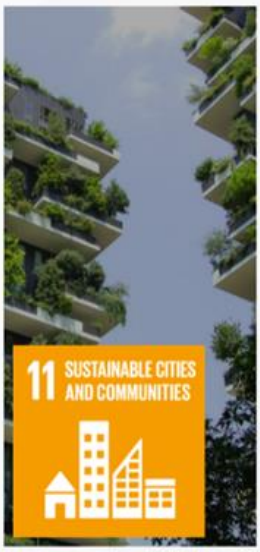
KOUGA
local municipality
Service Excellence through Good Governance



VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

MAY 2026

FOREWORD BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

It is my greatest privilege on behalf of Kouga Municipality and in my capacity as Executive Mayor of Kouga Municipality to present to you the municipality's Voluntary Local Review Report as of March 2026.

Kouga Municipality presents its first **Voluntary Local Review (VLR)** of progress toward the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The VLR consolidates ongoing planning processes, including the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), the Integrated Economic Growth Strategy (IEG Strategy) review, and the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) review, into a unified SDG lens to assess achievements, gaps, and acceleration priorities. The VLR is designed to strengthen vertical alignment with South Africa's national commitments and to inform future updates of Kouga's IDP and budget cycles.

Key messages

- Kouga has a strong foundation in **participatory planning** (IDP processes) and **strategic spatial planning** (SDF review), which the VLR builds upon to localize the SDGs.
- The municipality's evolving profile as a **renewable energy and green-economy hub** offers opportunities for SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).
- Priority data gaps remain for **disaggregated SDG indicators** at ward level; the VLR proposes a practical indicator set and a data partnership workflow to improve monitoring and reporting.

The VLR will be externally focused, driven by community needs and geared towards meeting community aspirations arrived from stakeholder consultations and engagements throughout the past months. It will, furthermore, continue to be guided by narratives that provide strategic focus areas. These are:

- Keep Kouga Serviced
- Keep Kouga Clean
- Keep Kouga Green
- Keep Kouga Safe
- Keep Kouga Smart and
- Keep Kouga Growing

These strategic focus areas are underscored by our internal priorities which include:

- To incrementally implement our renewable energy strategy.
- The resurfacing of our road infrastructure.

- The repair and upgrading of all wastewater treatment plants in Kouga Municipality to achieve a minimum of 70% Green Drop report.
- To Improve customer services by achieving a 95% achievement of turnaround times according to the approved Customer Service Charter.

Whilst we still have a lot of work ahead of us, I am immensely proud of the progress we have made thus far which include several recent achievements.

We are thrilled that Kouga has won the Provincial Greenest Municipality Award, reaffirming our commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Together we are more, when we unite against the deterioration and destruction of our physical, cultural, structural, and moral assets, and can seize the potential we hold to be the best Municipality in South Africa.

We look forward to building on our relationship with all stakeholders and continually improving on the municipality's planning processes so that, together, we can achieve our vision of Service Excellence Through Good Governance and achieve our Sustainable Development Goals.

Let us all collaborate on our shared future, showcasing Kouga Municipality as a blueprint of what a flourishing South Africa can look like.

Hon. Cllr Hatting Bornman

EXECUTIVE MAYOR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (attached as Annexure A) as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. South Africa, as a signatory, has committed to localising and integrating the SDGs into national, provincial, and local government systems.

Municipalities play a critical role in achieving the SDGs through service delivery, environmental management, social development, and local economic development. Aligning municipal strategies with the SDGs strengthens developmental outcomes and enhances compliance with national frameworks such as the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF).

Currently, the Municipality strives to have a structured, formalised framework to integrate the SDGs into its planning cycles, including the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP), and Annual Performance Plans. This will result in aligned planning, responsible reporting, and opportunities for funding and strategic partnerships.

Objectives of the SDG Implementation Framework

- Integrate SDGs into municipal strategic planning and performance management.
- Enhance monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on progress.
- Promote collaboration across municipal departments and external stakeholders.
- Strengthen resource mobilisation for sustainable development initiatives.

Alignment with Municipal Planning Tools

- Kouga has a strong foundation in **participatory planning** (IDP processes) and **strategic spatial planning** (SDF review), which the VLR builds upon to localize the SDGs.
- The municipality's evolving profile as a **renewable energy and green-economy hub** offers opportunities for SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).
- Priority data gaps remain for **disaggregated SDG indicators** at ward level; the VLR proposes a practical indicator set and a data partnership workflow to improve monitoring and reporting.

The VLR framework aligns the SDGs with the IDP priorities, Key Performance Areas (KPAs), and departmental objectives. Each municipal programme will be mapped against relevant SDG targets and indicators.

Institutional Arrangements

- Council approval
- Establishment of an SDG Steering Committee.
- Integration of SDG reporting into existing performance management structures.
- Capacity-building for municipal officials on SDG implementation and reporting.
- Stakeholder mapping and stakeholder engagement policy
- International Relations Policy

Expected Benefits

- Improved service delivery outcomes.
- Enhanced access to national and international funding.
- Strengthened accountability, transparency, and developmental impact.
- Increased stakeholder involvement and public participation.

Risk Assessment

- Risk: Limited capacity for implementation.

Mitigation: Training and capacity-building programmes.

- Risk: Inadequate data for monitoring.

Mitigation: Development of data management systems and partnerships with research institutions.

- Risk: Lack of departmental alignment.

Mitigation: Cross-departmental coordination mechanisms.

Public Participation

Public participation is incorporated through community engagement sessions, IDP consultations, and stakeholder forums to ensure inclusivity and transparency.
The SDGs belong to the communities they are meant to serve. Public participation is not an optional add-on to the VLR process — it is its foundation. Kouga Municipality incorporates community voices through structured engagement sessions, IDP consultations conducted across all 15 wards, and multi-stakeholder forums that bring together residents, civil society organisations, the private sector, and sector departments. These processes ensure that the municipality's SDG priorities are not determined in isolation by officials and councillors, but are genuinely shaped by the needs, aspirations, and lived experiences of the people of Kouga.

This commitment to participatory governance is both a democratic obligation and a practical necessity. Communities that are engaged in the planning process are more likely to support its implementation, to report problems early, and to hold their municipality accountable when commitments are not met. In this way, public participation is not merely a input into the VLR — it is one of the most powerful mechanisms we have for achieving the SDGs themselves.

1.2 KOUGA MUNICIPALITY SUSTAINABLE GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals (2015), are a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These seventeen goals include climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace, and justice. The goals are interrelated, and often, one success involves solving problems that are more broadly related to another.

Figure 1: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030.

1.2.1 Methodology

The VLR uses the **UN 2030 Agenda** and adapts the **UNECE Regional Guidelines for VLRs (2025)** to Kouga's context. KLM's SDG technical task team provided guidance and input into the VLR 2026 approach. KLM VLR 2026 reports on six SDG goals as guided by the municipality's service delivery mandate. The goals are:

SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth

SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities

SDG 13 – Climate change, and lastly

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

1.2.2 Data and information gathering

Engagements with data experts and sources, local and national data frameworks such as the General Household Survey and Census 2022 results were used to garner all possible KLM - level data. Kouga Municipality IDP and other relevant by – laws, policies and master plans. Both qualitative and quantitative data were gathered to provide a firm foundation for the review of the VLR. Quantitative data is information about quantities; that is,

information that can be measured and written down in numbers. Qualitative data is categorical measurements expressed through natural language description. Internal and external data sources were used. Where quantitative results are not yet consolidated at municipal level, we outline current initiatives, indicative indicators, and data gaps to be resolved in the first VLR cycle.

1.2.3 ALIGNMENT OF PLANS

To maximise the benefit of investments, strategic interventions and actions of all spheres of government, it is critical that there is policy alignment between national, provincial, district and local government to collaboratively achieve development goals. Whilst the IDP is developed by local government it must represent an integrated inter-governmental plan based upon the involvement of all three spheres of government.

This VLR was drafted, taking the various plans listed below into consideration, by ensuring alignment, inclusivity, and involvement by all spheres of government. These plans include:

- ✧ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ✧ National Key Performance Areas (NKPAs)
- ✧ National Outcomes (NOs)
- ✧ Provincial Strategic Plan;
- ✧ Sarah Baartman District Development Plan (One Plan)
- ✧ Kouga IDP and SDF.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

MUNICIPAL PROFILE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter offers a thorough synopsis of the situation analysis or development profile of the municipality. Section A and Section B are the two sections into which the chapter is divided into.

The municipal overview is covered in **Section A**, while the current state of the municipality is examined in **Section B**.

The VLR Analysis phase focuses on the following:

- A municipal-wide analysis of current reality, and challenges that still needs to be addressed and further identify interventions;

- A summary of levels of development across the municipal area; and
- Key development issues emerging from the community needs, trends and SWOT analysis.

This analysis is based on existing policy documents, inputs from members of the community, sector departments, internal documents including reports, and will be undertaken under the following areas:

- Socio-economic
- Spatial and Environmental
- Infrastructure
- Community needs
- Institutional
- Financial

The purpose of undertaking a municipal status quo analysis is to ensure that decisions are based on people's priority needs, knowledge on available and accessible resources; as well as proper information and understanding of the dynamics influencing development in the Municipality.

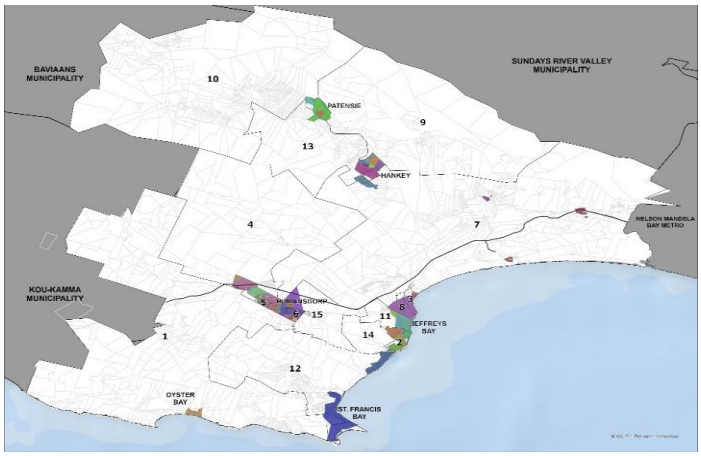
Kouga Municipality is however challenged with up-to-date baseline information that speaks to current service levels in the different development categories.

i) Geographic Location

The Kouga Local Municipality is a Category B municipality and is also one of seven local municipalities located within Sarah Baartman District Municipal area in Eastern Cape Province. It consists of nine towns, namely, Jeffreys Bay, Humansdorp, St Francis Bay, Cape St Francis, Oyster Bay, Patensie, Hankey, Loerie and Thornhill, as well as various smaller settlements and agricultural nodes.

It also encompasses the coastal region and the fertile Gamtoos Valley, which happens to be the gateway to the famous Baviaanskloof wilderness area.

Map 1: Municipal Locality Map



ii) Physical Environment

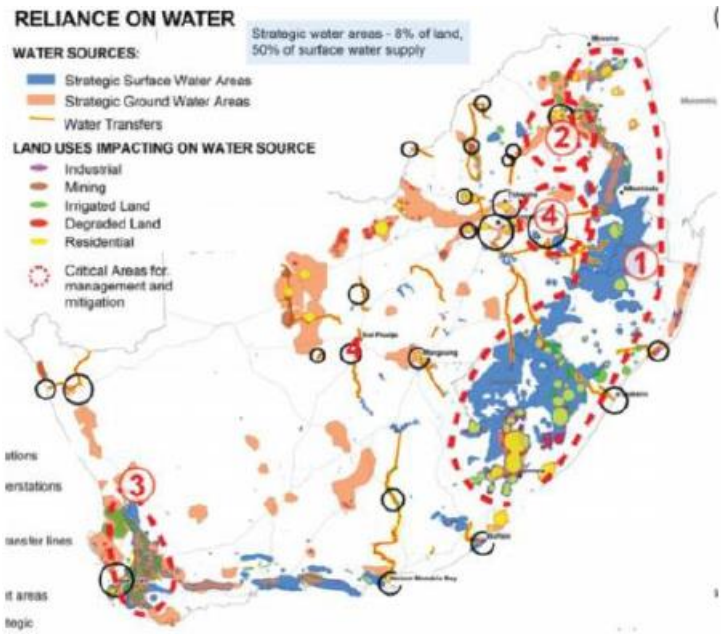
Climate: The area is classified as a subtropical and is situated in an intermediate zone between the summer and winter rainfall zones of the country, with annual precipitation between 400 and 650mm along the cost and in the Humansdorp area with slightly lower rainfalls in the Gamtoos River Valley. Climatic conditions along the coast and Humansdorp inland areas are moderate with harsher minimum and maximum temperature extreme in Gamtoos Valley.

Climate Change: Is indeed having an impact on the Kouga Municipality, rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns are affecting the region's ecosystems, agriculture, and water resources. The municipality is experiencing increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as drought, heatwaves, and heavy rainfall, which can lead to flooding. These changes are putting pressure on the natural environment, agriculture, and infrastructure in Kouga. For example, droughts can result in water shortages, affecting both residents and agriculture. Rising sea levels also pose a threat to coastal areas, including erosion and the potential loss of infrastructure.

The municipality is taking steps to mitigate and adapt to these changes, such as implementing water conservation measures, promoting renewable energy sources, and raising awareness about climate change.

Water Resource: The following are the main drainage features:

- **Van Staden River on the eastern boundary of the KLM.**
- **Gamtoos River with a drainage area of approximately 34000km² and an annual runoff of 90million m³.**
- **Kabeljous River which is 33km in length with a catchment area of 238km².**
- **Seekoei River which forms the second biggest drainage feature.**
- **Major dams Mpofo and Churchill supply water to the KLM and NMBM.**



The municipality has increased the supply of water from groundwater sources through the development of borehole fields.

Coastal Management: The Sarah Baartman District Municipality (SBDM) has developed a Coastal Management Programme (CMPr) to guide the integrated management of the coastal zone within the district. The coastline of the SBDM is 320km long and includes 4 coastal Local Municipalities, namely Koukamma, Kouga, Sundays River Valley, and Ndlambe. The 1km buffer inland from the high-water mark of the sea is used as the landward boundary. In addition, a catchment management approach has been adopted in this CMPr, where a catchment area has been designated for each LM, considering topography, land cover, and physical boundaries.

Coastal management in KLM is of great importance due to its extensive coastline and the vulnerability of coastal areas to various environmental factors. The municipality recognises the need to protect and sustainably manage its coastal resources to ensure their long-term viability.

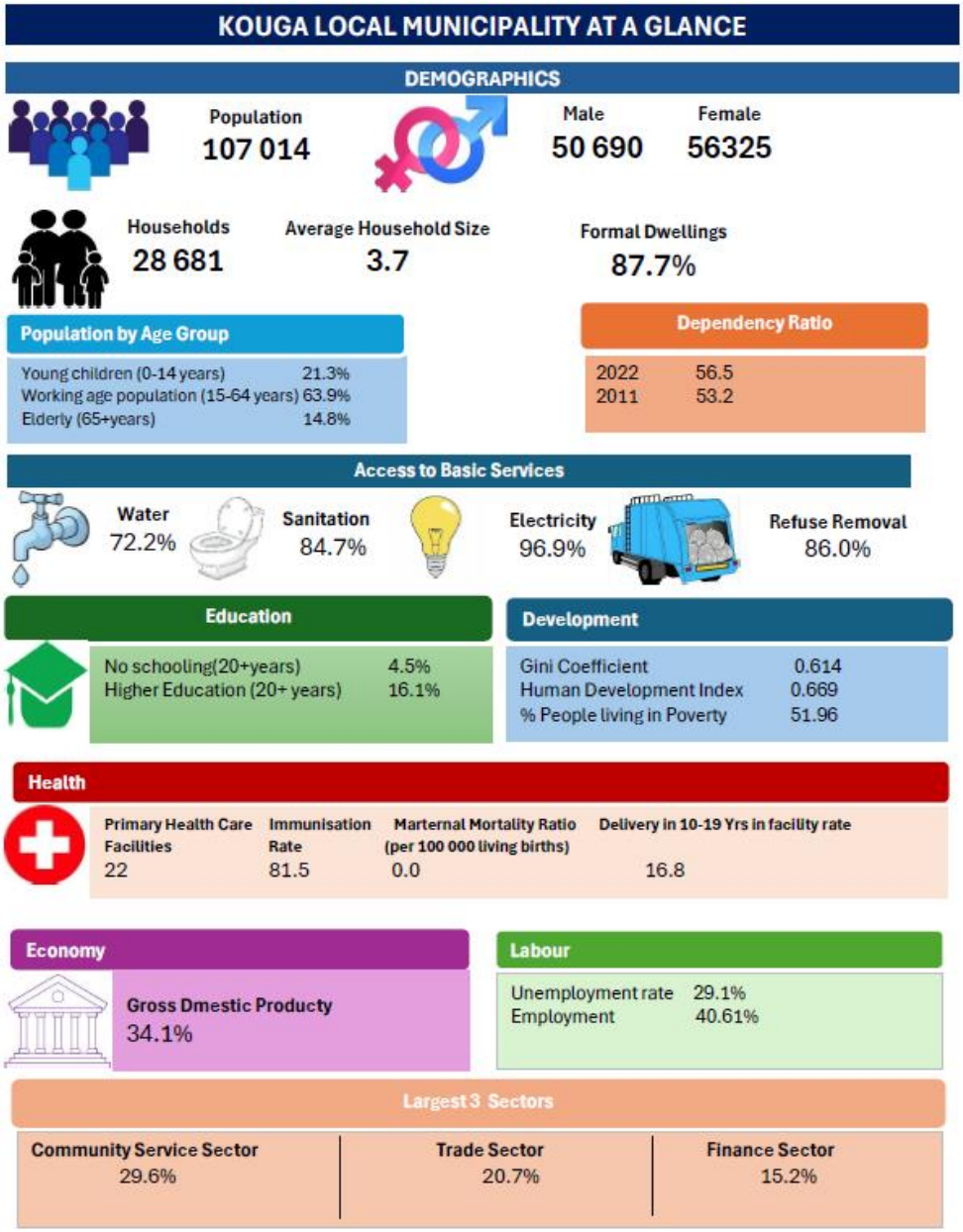
Natural Environment: The natural environment of KLM is incredibly diverse and offers a range of ecosystems and natural attractions. The municipality is blessed with beautiful coastal areas, including pristine beaches and estuaries, where visitors can enjoy swimming, surfing, fishing, and other water activities. The coastline is also home to unique

marine life, such as dolphins and whales, making it a popular spot for marine wildlife enthusiasts.

Inland, KLM is characterised by rugged mountains, valleys, and fertile plans. The Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a prominent feature of the municipality. It is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rare plant species, and diverse animal life, including Cape Mountain Zebra, Kudu and various bird species.

b) KOUGA MUNICIPALITY AT A GLANCE

Figure 2: Kouga Municipality's Demographics



c) DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

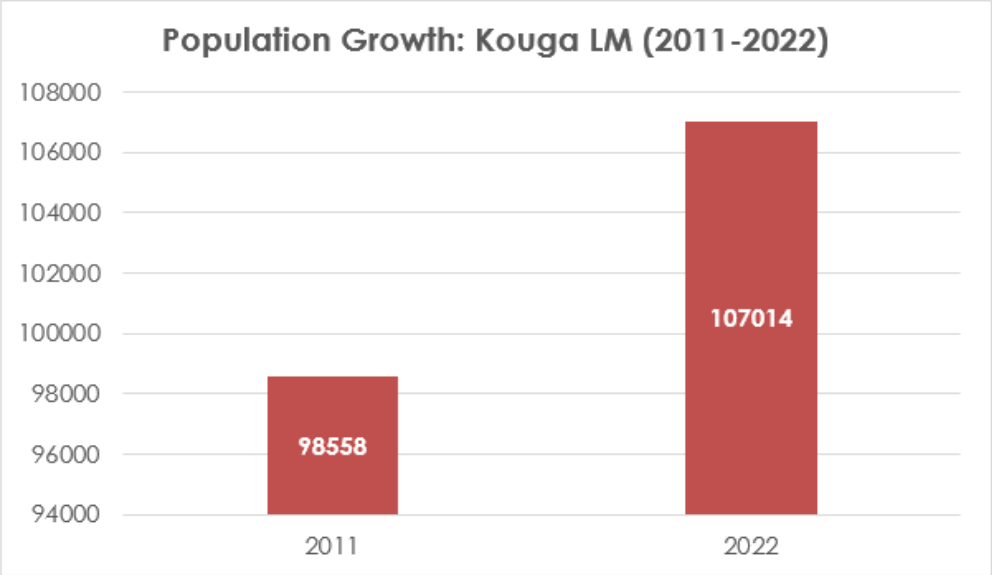
The Kouga Municipality area is made up of socially, historically, culturally, economically diverse communities. The area seen a rapid growth of urbanisation in recent and the trend is anticipated to grow in view of planned developments in the Kouga area. Humansdorp and Jeffreys Bay are the two primary urban settlements where the main retail and commercial activities are concentrated.

Population Distribution

Kouga has the largest population size in the Sarah Baartman District, which, according to Census, 2022 is estimated at 107 014.

Figure 3 shows the total population by census years, 2011-2022. Overall, the results indicate the population size of the municipality increased by 8.5%. The total population increased from 98 558 in 2011 to 107 014 in 2022.

Figure 3: Population Size



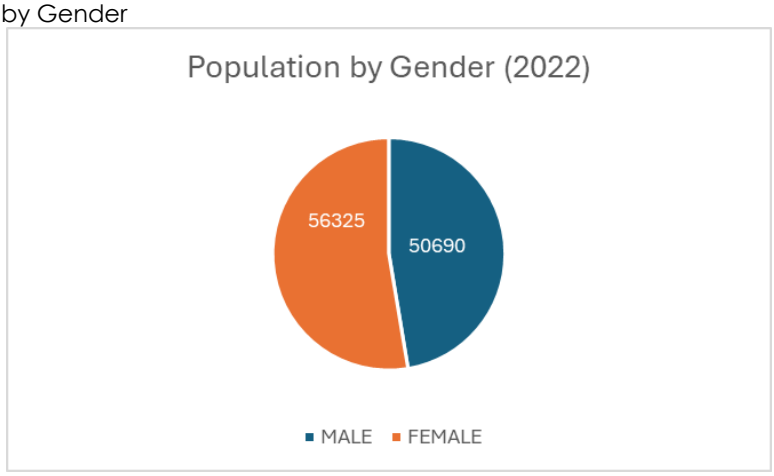
Source: StatsSA, Census, 2022)

Growth Rate: The increase suggests a moderate population growth trend.	**Overall Growth:** The population increased from 98,558 in 2011 to 107,014 in 2022. This represents a growth of 8,456 people over 11 years
Possible contributing factors: Natural population increases (births exceeding deaths). Migration into Kouga LM is due to economic opportunities or improved living conditions.	**Implications:** Increased Demand for Services: More residents mean higher demand for housing, education, healthcare, and infrastructure. **Economic Growth Potential:** A larger population may contribute to a growing labour force and market expansion.

	Urban Planning Needs: The municipality may need to address urbanization, transport, and resource management.

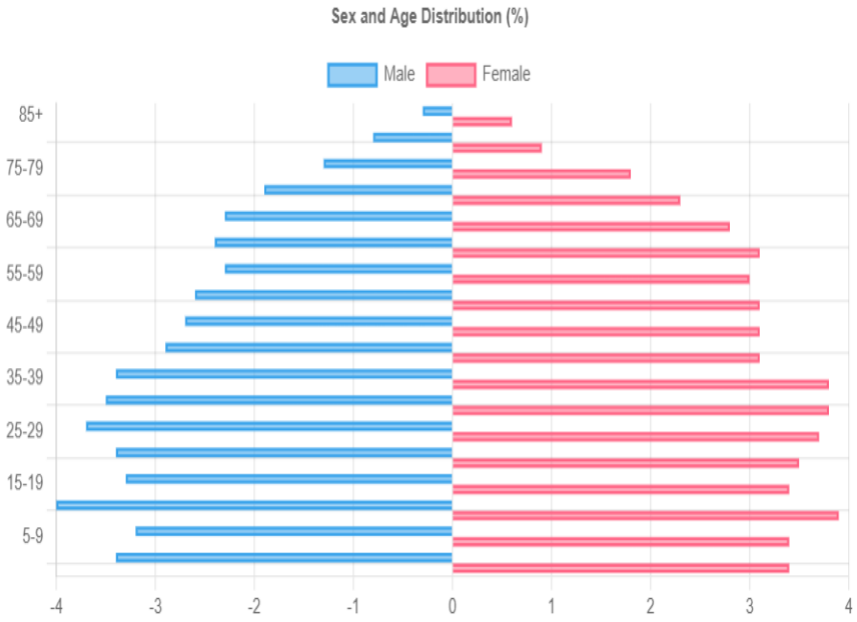
i) Population By Gender

Figure 4: Population by Gender



ii) Distribution of population by Gender and Age Group, Census 2022

Figure 5: Distribution of population by Gender and Age Group, Census 2022



Source: StatsSA, Census, 2022

In 2022, Kouga's population gender break was relatively split between female 56 325 (52,6 percent) and male 50690 (47,4 percent).

Gender Distribution: The population is divided into male (blue) and female (red) categories.	**General Trend:** The population pyramid suggests a higher life expectancy for females, as they outnumber males in older age brackets
Age Distribution: Younger age groups (5-19) have a larger male population, while older age groups (especially 55+) show a higher proportion of females.	**Balanced Youth Population:** The distribution among younger groups (5-39 years) appears relatively balanced between genders.

iii) Age Distribution

The table presents age distribution data for 2011 and 2022, highlighting changes in population groups and dependency ratios.

Table 1: Age Distribution

Year	Children: 0-14 Years	Working Age: 15-65 Years	Aged 65+	Dependency Ratio (per 100)
2011	26 402	64 331	7 824	53,2
2022	22 765	63 383	15 865	56,5

Key Observations:

Decrease in Children (0-14 years)
- In 2001, there were 26 402 children, which dropped to 22 765 in 2022.
- This indicates a decline in birth rates or a shift in demographic patterns.

Slight Decrease in the Working-Age Population (15-65 years)
- The working-age group declined from 64 331 in 2011 to 63 383 in 2022.
- This could be due to aging or lower growth population growth.

Significant increase in Aged Population (65+)
- The elderly population nearly doubled, rising from 7 824 in 2011 to 15 865 in 2022.
- This suggests improved life expectancy or an aging population trend.

Rise in Dependency Ratio
- The dependency ratio increased from 53.2 in 2011 to 56.5 in 2022.
- A higher ratio means that there are more dependents (children and elderly) for every 100 working-age individuals, indicating a growing economic burden on the workforce.

Source: StatsSA, Census, 2022

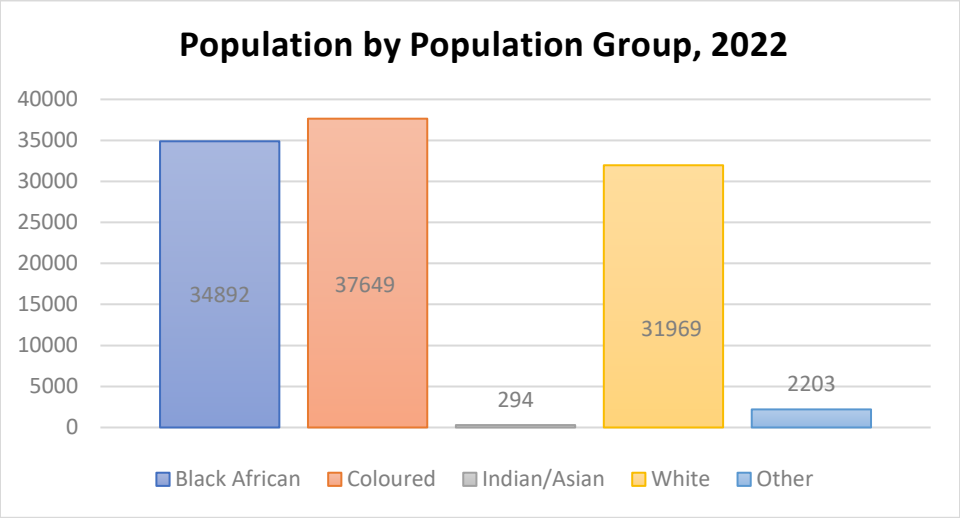
Overall, the data suggests that the population is aging, with fewer children being born and more people living longer. A shrinking working-age population relative to dependents could impact economic growth, social services, and healthcare systems.

This shift may necessitate adjustments in policies related to workforce expansion, retirement planning, and social security to effectively accommodate these demographic changes.

iv) Population by Population Group

This chart displays the distribution of population groups in Kouga LM for 2022.

Figure 6: Population by Population Group



Source: StatSA, Census 2022

Largest Population Group – Coloured (37,649 people). This is the largest group in Kouga LM. It represents a significant portion of the population.	**Black African Population (34,892 people)** The second largest group, closely following the Coloured population.
White Population (31,969 people) The third-largest group, showing a relatively high number compared to national trends.	**Indian/Asian Population (294 people)** The smallest group indicating a minimal presence in the area.
Other Population (2,203 people) This category includes individuals who do not fit into the standard classifications.	

v) Households Dynamics

	2022	2011
Households	28 681	29 447
Average household size	3.7	3.3
Female headed households	*n/a	35.4%
Formal dwellings	84.7%	76.1%
Housing owned	*n/a	51.7%

*information not available

The number of households decreased by 2.6% while the household size increased from 3.3 in 2011 to 3,7 in 2022.

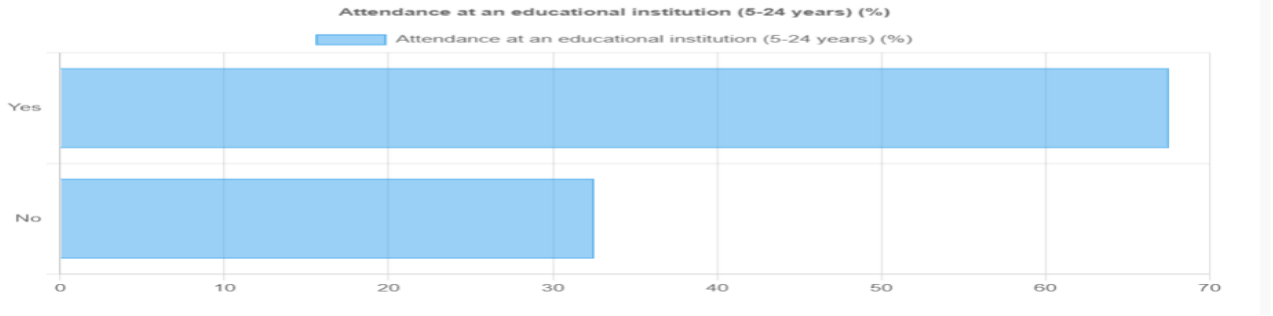
2.4. EDUCATION

(1) Introduction

Education improves job opportunities and helps maintain and accelerate overall development. It expands the range of available options that a person can choose from to create opportunities for a fulfilling life. The educational level of the population affects well-being also through an indirect positive effect on health and life expectancy.

(2) Attendance at educational Institutions (5-24 year) (%)

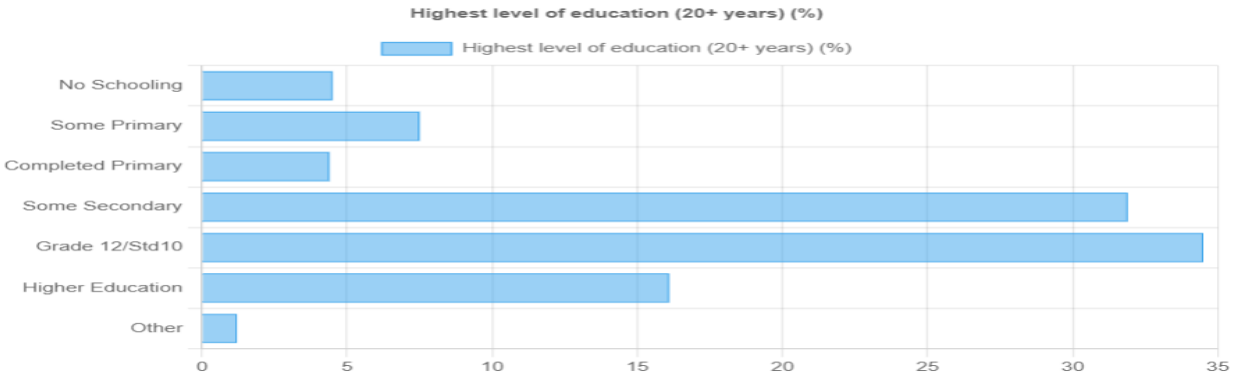
Figure 7: Attendance at education institution (5-24 year) %



According to **figure 7**, 67.5% of learners aged 5 to 24 years are attending educational institutions whereas 32.5% of learners in the same age group are not attending any educational institutions.

(3) Highest level of Education (20+ years) (%)

Figure 8: Highest level of Education (20+years)



The highest level of education in the Kouga municipal area is Grade 12(34.5%) amongst the age group of 20+ years and the second highest level is Some Secondary (31.9%) with the no schooling at 4.5% of no schooling in the area.

2.5 HEALTH

The Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Health together with the private sector provides health services within the Kouga municipal area. Good health is crucial in achieving and maintaining a high quality of life.

The information provided by the Department of Health as detailed in this section, pertains only to public sector health care institutions. Any privately provided facilities or services are not reflected herein.

2.5.1 Healthcare Facilities

Kouga municipality has a range of primary health care facilities which includes 10 fixed clinics, 3 EMS Services and 3 mobile clinics of which services the farming areas, including 2 District hospital.

Table 2: Healthcare Facilities

Primary Health care Clinics - Fixed (10)	Condom Distribution Site (1)	Primary Healthcare Clinics non-fixed (mobile/satellite) (3)	Number of District Hospitals (2)	Emergency Health Services (EHS) (2)
Andrieskraal		Loerie	Humansdorp	Provincial
Humansdorp		Patensie	PZ Meyer	LM
Kruisfontein		Suurbron		
Loerie				
Masakhane				
Pellsrus				
Sea Vista				
Thornhill				
Weston				
Imizamo Yethu (Patensie)	Kouga Sub-District Primary Distribution Site			

Source: Department of Health, 2023

A total of 1 Sessional Doctor and 1 full time for the clinics and 38 professional nurses plus 2 Community Services have been employed by the Department of Health to render health services to patients attending the primary healthcare facilities in the Kouga Municipal area.

2.5.2 HIV/AIDS and TB Treatment and Care

Table 3: Antiretroviral Treatment

Health Indicator	SBDM	Kouga
ART adult remain on ART end of period	32 129	6742
ART child under 15 years remain on ART end of period	739	177

Source: Department of Health, 2023

2.5.3 Child and Maternal Health

Table 4:Childcare and Maternal Health

Health Indicator	SBDM	Kouga
Immunisation	88,2%	104.3%
Malnutrition	3.2%	1.3%
Neonatal mortality rate	9.1%	17.3%
Low birth weight	17.8%	13.8%

Source: Department of Health, 2023

Immunisation protects both adults and children against preventable infectious diseases.

Malnutrition, which refers to a condition whereby an individual does not receive adequate amounts or alternately receives an excessive amount of nutrients.

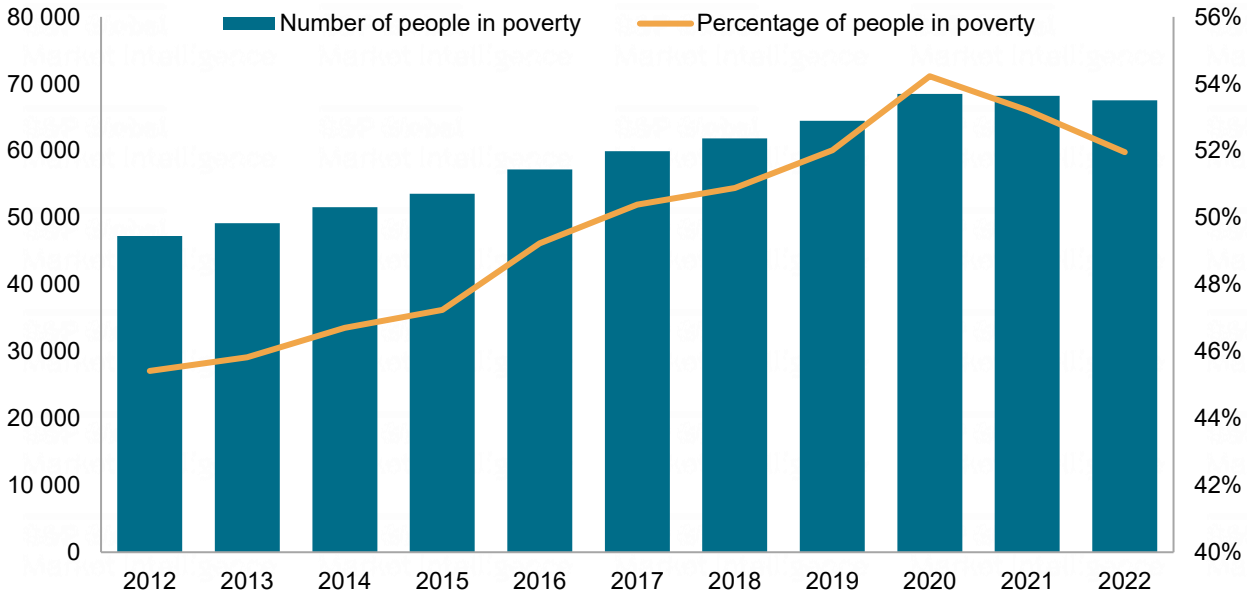
Neonatal mortality rate, the neonatal period (or the first 28 day of life) represents the most vulnerable time for a child's survival. The neonatal mortality rate is the number of neonates dying before reaching the age of 28 days, per 1000 births, in a given year.

Low birth weight is defined as weight at birth of less than 2500grams and can be associated with a range of short- and long-term consequences.

2.6 POVERTY AND INCOME

The upper poverty line is defined by StatsSA as the level of consumption at which individuals can purchase both sufficient food and non-food items without sacrificing one for the other. These variables measure the number of individuals living below that level of consumption for the given area and is balanced directly to the official upper poverty rate as measured by StatsSA.

Chart 1: Number and percentage of people living in poverty - Kouga Local Municipality, 2012-2022 [Number percentage]



Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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Using the upper poverty level as a guide, Kouga Local Municipality had 67 500 impoverished individuals in 2022, 42.95% more than the 47 200 in 2012. Between 2012 and 2022, the proportion of the population living in poverty rose from 45.42% to 51.96%, a rise of -6.54 percentage points.

Table 5:Percentage of people living in poverty by population group - Kouga, 2012-2022 [Percentage]

	African	White	Coloured
2012	61.0%	0.8%	50.2%
2013	61.1%	0.9%	50.7%
2014	61.7%	1.0%	51.8%
2015	62.0%	1.0%	52.3%
2016	64.4%	1.3%	54.2%
2017	66.1%	1.5%	54.8%
2018	67.1%	1.7%	54.4%
2019	69.0%	2.2%	54.6%
2020	71.6%	3.0%	56.5%
2021	70.7%	3.0%	54.6%
2022	**69.1%**	**3.0%**	**52.9%**

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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Applying the upper poverty line criteria, the African demographic group had the highest percentage of impoverished individuals in 2022 - 69.1% of the total population. As evidenced by the shift from 0.77% in 2012 to 2.98% in 2022, the percentage of White people living in poverty fell by -2.65 percentage points. Compared to 50.24% in 2012, 52.90% of people who identified as Coloured lived in poverty in 2022.

2.6.1 Household Income

The number of households is categorised into predefined income groups or brackets. The total household gross disposable income is the result of adding up all forms of payments in kind, gifts, sales of handmade goods, pensions from retirement programs, income from unofficial sector activities, subsistence income, etc. Keep in mind that the income distribution includes income tax.

Income levels range from R0 to R2,400 year to R2,400,000+ annually. A household might consist of one person living alone or a collection of people who share housing and provide food and other necessities for survival. These income groups do not account for inflation creep; households naturally move "up" in the brackets over time, even if their actual income remains unchanged.

Table 6:Households by income category - Kouga, Sarah Baartman, Eastern Cape and National Total, 2022 [Number Percentage]

	Kouga	Sarah Baartman	Eastern Cape	National Total	Kouga as % of district municipality	Kouga as % of province	Kouga as % of national
0-2400	2	7	141	1,260	*29.8%*	*1.51%*	*0.17%*
2400-6000	31	109	1,780	14,500	*28.5%*	*1.75%*	*0.22%*
6000-12000	216	762	13,900	107,000	*28.3%*	*1.55%*	*0.20%*
12000-18000	479	1,720	32,000	242,000	*27.9%*	*1.50%*	*0.20%*
18000-30000	1,880	7,090	126,000	914,000	*26.5%*	*1.49%*	*0.21%*
30000-42000	2,810	11,200	182,000	1,290,000	*25.2%*	*1.54%*	*0.22%*
42000-54000	2,720	11,400	181,000	1,270,000	*23.8%*	*1.50%*	*0.21%*
54000-72000	3,980	17,200	252,000	1,820,000	*23.1%*	*1.58%*	*0.22%*
72000-96000	4,310	18,600	243,000	1,860,000	*23.2%*	*1.78%*	*0.23%*
96000-132000	4,350	18,600	221,000	1,860,000	*23.4%*	*1.97%*	*0.23%*
132000-192000	4,320	18,200	213,000	1,930,000	*23.7%*	*2.03%*	*0.22%*
192000-360000	5,590	21,300	231,000	2,350,000	*26.3%*	*2.42%*	*0.24%*
360000-600000	3,960	13,700	139,000	1,630,000	*28.8%*	*2.84%*	*0.24%*
600000-1200000	3,400	10,700	93,300	1,240,000	*31.9%*	*3.65%*	*0.27%*
1200000-2400000	1,680	5,140	39,900	565,000	*32.6%*	*4.20%*	*0.30%*
2400000+	395	1,090	7,260	111,000	*36.2%*	*5.44%*	*0.36%*
Total	**40,100**	**157,000**	**1,980,000**	**17,200,000**	***25.6%***	***2.03%***	***0.23%***

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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According to estimates, 6.49% of Kouga Local Municipality households in 2022 made less than R30,000 annually. This figure is approximately half of what it was in 2012. With a total of 5 590 households, the income category 192000–360000 has the most, followed by the 96000–132000 income category with 4 350 households. There are just 2.1 households in the income range of 0–2400.

2.6.1.1 Annual total personal income

Personal income is an even broader concept than labour remuneration. Personal income includes profits, income from property, net current transfers and net social benefits.

Annual total personal income is the sum of the total personal income for all households in a specific region. The definition of income is the same as used in the income brackets (Number of Households by Income Category), also including the income tax. For this variable, current prices are used, meaning that inflation has not been taken into account.

Table 7:Annual total personal income - Kouga, Sarah Baartman, Eastern Cape and National Total [Current Prices, R billions]

	Kouga	Sarah Baartman	Eastern Cape	National Total
2012	5.7	19.7	210.1	2,525.0
2013	6.4	21.8	229.0	2,729.4
2014	7.1	23.9	248.1	2,938.2
2015	7.7	26.1	268.4	3,180.0
2016	8.4	28.3	287.0	3,413.6
2017	9.3	31.1	310.2	3,662.1
2018	10.1	33.8	332.2	3,913.0
2019	10.8	36.0	349.0	4,111.6
2020	10.7	35.7	340.5	4,009.8
2021	11.8	39.7	379.8	4,425.4
2022	12.8	43.4	420.6	4,812.5
Average Annual growth				
2012-2022	*8.45%*	*8.19%*	*7.19%*	*6.66%*

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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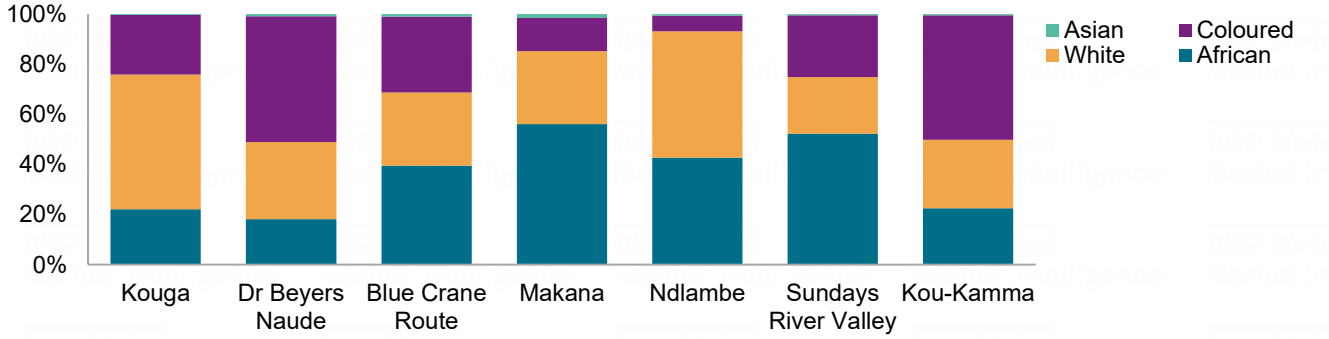
From 2012 to 2022, Kouga Local Municipality experienced an average annual growth rate of 8.45% (from R 5.7 billion to R 12.8 billion), exceeding the average annual growth rates of Sarah Baartman (8.19%) and Eastern Cape Province (7.19%). Compared to Kouga Local Municipality, South Africa's average yearly growth rate was lower, at 6.66% (from R 2.52 trillion to R 4.81 trillion).

Chart 1:Annual total personal income by population group - Kouga and the rest of Sarah Baartman [Current Prices, R billions]



Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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2.6.1.2 Social Grants

The Kouga municipal area has a total of 39 597 grant dependents due to the high levels of poverty within the municipality. The details of the various grants are depicted in the tables below:

Local Office	Local Office Key	Grant Type		Number Of Beneficiaries	Number Of Children	Estimated Amount	Number Of Grants
HUMANSDORP	290200	Old Age Grant		20		R44 200	20
			> 75 Years	7		R15 470	7
		Disability Grant	Permanent Disability	3		R6 570	3
		Grant-In-Aid		2		R1 060	2
		Child Support Grant	(1 Year)		1	R530	1
			(3 Years)		1	R530	1
			(4 Years)		1	R530	1
			(9 Years)		1	R530	1
			(12 Years)		1	R530	1
			(13 Years)		1	R530	1
			(14 Years)		1	R530	1
			(15 Years)		2	R1 060	2
			(16 Years)		2	R1 060	2
			(17 Years)		3	R1 590	3
		Total		**32**	**14**	**R74 720**	**46**
					Grand Total (Estimated Monthly Total multiplied by 12)	**R896 640**	

Source: DSD_SASSA, 2025

Local Office	Local Office Key	Grant Type		Number Of Beneficiaries	Number Of Children	Estimated Amount	Number Of Grants
HUMANSDORP INSTITUTION	280200	Old Age Grant		7		R15 470	7
			> 75 Years	22		R48 620	22
		Total		**29**	**0**	**R64 090**	**29**
					Grand Total (Estimated Monthly Total multiplied by 12)	**R769 080**	

Source: DSD_SASSA, 2025

Table 8: Social Grant Statistics

Local Office	Local Office Key	Grant Type		Number Of Beneficiaries	Number Of Children	Estimated Amount	Number Of Grants
HUMANSDORP LOCAL OFFICE	260100	Old Age Grant		6,783		R14 990 430	6,783
			> 75 Years	2,229		R4 926 090	2,229
		Disability Grant	Permanent Disability	2,265		R4 960 350	2,265
			Temporary Disability	380		R832 200	380
		Foster Care Grant			579	R683 220	579
		Grant-In-Aid		665		R352 450	665
		Care Dependency Grant			356	R188 680	356
		Child Support Grant	(< 1 Year)		946	R501 380	946
			(1 Year)		1,397	R740 410	1,397
			(2 Years)		1,472	R780 160	1,472
			(3 Years)		1,528	R809 840	1,528
			(4 Years)		1,526	R808 780	1,526

Local Office	Local Office Key	Grant Type		Number Of Beneficiaries	Number Of Children	Estimated Amount	Number Of Grants
			(5 Years)		1,397	R740 410	1,397
			(6 Years)		1,483	R785 990	1,483
			(7 Years)		1,419	R752 070	1,419
			(8 Years)		1,352	R716 560	1,352
			(9 Years)		1,488	R788 640	1,488
			(10 Years)		1,532	R811 960	1,532
			(11 Years)		1,517	R804 010	1,517
			(12 Years)		1,621	R859 130	1,621
			(13 Years)		1,701	R901 530	1,701
			(14 Years)		1,658	R878 740	1,658
			(15 Years)		1,580	R837 400	1,580
			(16 Years)		1,635	R866 550	1,635
			(17 Years)		1,513	R801 890	1,513
		Total		**12,322**	**27,700**	**R40 307 440**	**40,022**
					Grand Total (Estimated Monthly Total multiplied by 12)	**R483 689 280**	

Source: DSD_SASSA, 2025

CURRENT SITUATION

This section aims at providing a detailed analysis on the state of affairs of the municipality. The analysis will be dealt with as per the six (6) National Key Performance Areas.

2.7 Public Participation

Chapter 4 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000 deals with the development of a culture of community (public) participation, mechanisms, processes, and procedures for community participation, communication of information concerning community participation, public notice of council meetings, and communication between council and the local community. These mechanisms for public participation must also be appropriate for the:

- Preparation, implementation and review of the VLR.
- The establishment, implementation and review of the performance management system;
- Monitoring and review of the performance, including the outcomes and impact of such performance; and
- Preparation of the municipal budget.

2.7.1 Community Participation

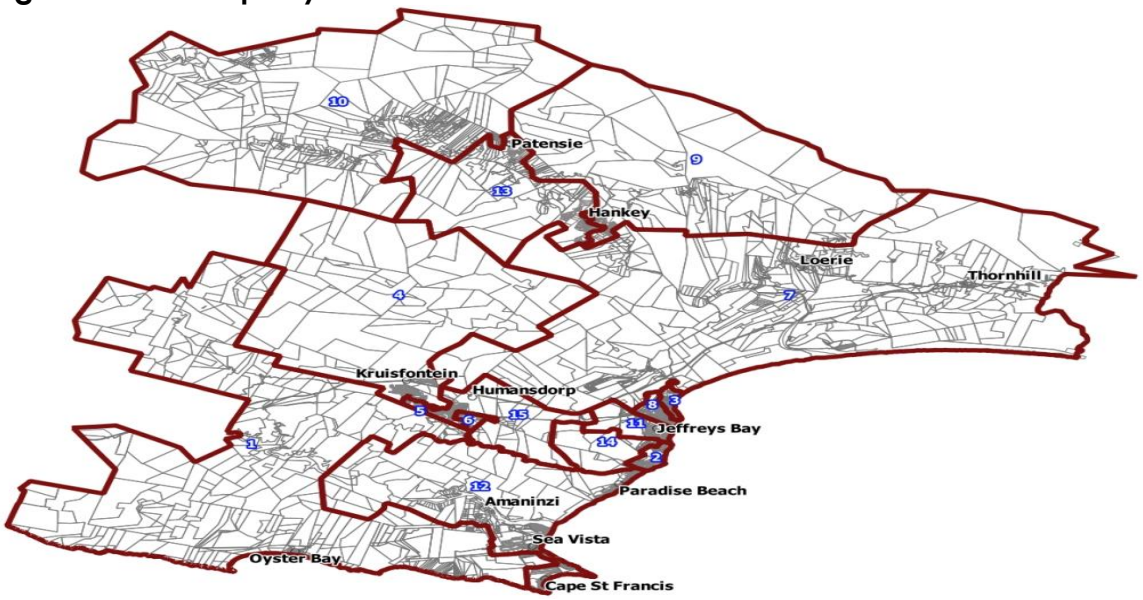
- Stakeholder and community engagements to determine and undertake development priorities, form the cornerstone of the VLR. During the month of

October/November 2025, the Municipality conducted ward clustered meetings with all 15 wards where all relevant stakeholders were also invited to partake in the process. The first round of the of the engagements focused on providing feedback on all ward priorities and explaining SDG's.

2.7.2 SDG Public Participation Process

The SDG is about determining stakeholder and community needs and priorities that need to be addressed to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of residents within the municipal area. Various stakeholders and sectors were involved during the drafting of the VLR.

Map 2 : Kouga Local Municipality Wards



Source: KLM, 2025

2.7.3 Intergovernmental Relations

Section 24 (1) and (2) of the Municipal Systems Act provides for the legislative Framework for the enhancement of co-operative governance in municipal planning. The Act states the following:

"(1) the planning undertaken by the municipality must be aligned with and complement the development plans and strategies of other of the affected municipalities and other organs of state to give effect to the principles of cooperative government contained in Section 41of the Constitution. (2) municipalities must participate in national and provincial development programmes as required in Section 153(b) of the Constitution".

Kouga Municipality is dedicated to collaborating with all pertinent parties in the municipal region to address the issues that its communities face.

3. Kouga Local Municipality Sustainable Goals

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Kouga Local Municipality recognises that development challenges and opportunities affect groups within society differently. In line with the SDG principle of "Leave No One Behind," the municipality seeks to strengthen Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations across planning, implementation and reporting processes.

The VLR aims to ensure that development interventions consider who benefits, identify where inequalities may persist, and highlight the needs of vulnerable and underrepresented groups. As this represents Kouga Municipality's first VLR cycle, the integration of gender and inclusion considerations should be viewed as an evolving process. Future VLR cycles should progressively strengthen the use of disaggregated data, including sex, age and location-based information, to support more inclusive planning and decision-making.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Service delivery and infrastructure upgrades are recurring priorities in the IDP review cycle, with ward-level consultations identifying needs and progress. Access to water and sanitation services remains a core constitutional and developmental mandate for Kouga Local Municipality, grounded in **Section 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996)** and operationalised through national sector frameworks. Over the past decade, the municipality has made steady progress in expanding basic service delivery, supported by infrastructure investment and IDP-driven prioritisation of water and sanitation projects.

Relationship Between National Indicators and Local Progress

SDG 6 Indicator	**South Africa National Status**	**Kouga Local Alignment**
6.1.1 Access to safely managed drinking water services	Fully reported nationally	Expansion of water infrastructure, borehole development and treatment plant upgrades improve access to reliable water services

SDG 6 Indicator	South Africa National Status	Kouga Local Alignment
6.2.1 Access to safely managed sanitation services	Reported nationally	Expansion and upgrading of sanitation networks and wastewater infrastructure improve service delivery
6.3.1 Wastewater safely treated	Nationally monitored	Upgrades and refurbishment of wastewater treatment works improve treatment efficiency and environmental protection
6.3.2 Water quality of water bodies	National monitoring systems in place	Blue Drop performance improvements and water quality management strengthen local monitoring and compliance
6.4.1 Water-use efficiency	National metric available	Groundwater development, improved treatment systems and infrastructure upgrades indirectly support greater efficiency
6.4.2 Water stress levels	Nationally tracked	Water security interventions and drought mitigation measures reduce vulnerability to water shortages
6.5.1 Integrated Water Resource Management	National implementation monitored	Water Services Development Planning and integrated municipal planning support water resource management
6.6.1 Protection of water-related ecosystems	Nationally reported	Groundwater protection, environmental management and water conservation initiatives contribute to ecosystem sustainability
6.a.1 International cooperation and capacity support	Nationally tracked	Municipal infrastructure programmes benefit indirectly through national grant and support mechanisms
6.b.1 Community participation in water	Nationally reported	IDP public participation processes and ward engagements support

SDG 6 Indicator	South Africa National Status	Kouga Local Alignment
and sanitation management		community involvement in water and sanitation planning

Target 6.1 — Safe and affordable drinking water
6.1.1 — *Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services*

Target 6.2 — Sanitation and hygiene
6.2.1 — *Proportion of population using*:
- (a) safely managed sanitation services

Target 6.3 — Water quality and wastewater
6.3.1 — *Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated*
6.3.2 — *Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality*

Target 6.4 — Water-use efficiency and water scarcity
6.4.1 — *Change in water-use efficiency over time*
6.4.2 — *Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources*

Target 6.5 — Integrated water resources management
6.5.1 — *Degree of integrated water resources management*
6.5.2 — *Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation*

Target 6.6 — Protect and restore water-related ecosystems
6.6.1 — *Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time*

Target 6.a — International cooperation and capacity-building
6.a.1 — *Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan*

Target 6.b — Community participation in water and sanitation management
6.b.1 — *Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management*

At the same time, the first VLR cycle highlights a key transition point:

- moving from **infrastructure delivery reporting (outputs)**
- toward **standardised, indicator-based performance tracking (system performance)** aligned to SDG 6.

Progress Against Key Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2011)	Current Status (2022)	Trend	Assessment
6.1.1 – Access to piped water on site	82.4%	88.2%	Improving	Strong progress, but not yet universal
6.2.1 – Access to flush sanitation (sewered)	64.9%	84.7%	Significant improvement	Major service delivery gains
6.3.1 – Wastewater safely treated	Not consolidated	Infrastructure upgrades completed	Partial	Data consolidation required
6.4 (Proxy) – Water security / system efficiency	Not available	Not yet standardised	Gap	Critical data gap

Sources:

- Statistics South Africa (Census 2011; Census 2022)
- Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (2019)
- Kouga Local Municipality IDP (2022–2027)
- UN SDG Global Indicator Framework (SDG 6)

VLR Assessment – SDG 6

Kouga Local Municipality demonstrates clear progress in expanding access to water and sanitation, particularly in sanitation services.

Overall Status

Progressing well on service delivery, with critical data and system performance gaps to address in the next VLR cycle.

Highlights on Water Provision

The table below set out all highlights on water provision:

Highlight/s	Description
Kouga Municipality has constructed 4 additional Water treatment plants and upgraded Gill Marcus Plant from a 800kl/day design capacity to 3.5 Ml/day capacity.	Effective removal of heavy metals in Groundwater. Effective coagulation of particles and colour removal from raw surface water.
Improved water security by developing groundwater sources	Several new boreholes were developed across Kouga to improve our water supply and reduce our reliance on NMBM water
Improved and Efficient Water treatment Chemicals	Cost effective and more effective chemicals identified and implemented for surface water treatment
Kouga is currently one of the top 3 Municipalities in the Eastern Cape (Blue Drop Report 2023, with only the two metros' superseding their score of 64.59%)	Effective management of Water Treatment process. Restructuring and creating a dedicated section purely for the function of Water Services Authority

Challenges on Water Provision

The table below set out all challenges experience by the department on water provision:

Challenge/s	Action to Adress
Storage Capacity in KwaNomzamo.	Build additional storage facility to meet Human Settlements Guideline standards.
Humansdorp water quality deteriorate after high rainfall negatively impacts on raw water colour.	Better chemicals implemented to remove high turbidity through flocculation process. Increased response time by means of professional, dedicated personnel.
Loadshedding.	Loadshedding has several negative impacts on the water supply. - High cost to run boreholes and treatment plants on generators. - Reduced yield from boreholes - Potential damage to boreholes to frequent stop-start of pumping operation. - Damage to electrical equipment due to electrical surges caused by switching.

Water Service Levels

All residents on formal erven in the urban areas of Kouga municipality's management area have access to water service and free basic water (6kl) is provided to all registered indigent households.

Households in informal areas are provided with communal services as an intermediary measure. There are ±4 200 informal households in Kouga without any basic water or sanitation services (communal taps and ablution facilities).

The table below give an overview of the water service delivery access profile of the municipality's management area:

Table 9:Water Service Levels -2022

Water Service Levels: 2022	Number	%
Piped (tap) water inside dwelling	20 698	72.2%
Piped (tap) water inside the yard	4 612	16.1%
Pipe (tap) water on community stand	2 765	9.6%
No access to piped water	606	2.1%

Source: StatSA, Census 2022

Infrastructure Development: Water

Town	Description											
	WTW (Hydraulic)			Bulk Water Needs			Reservoirs			Water Networks		
	Status	Year to upgrade	Cost (R)	Status	Year to upgrade	Cost (R)	Status	Year to upgrade	Cost (R)	Status	Year to upgrade	Cost (R)
Hankey	2.1Ml/d Good	2025/26	R1.5 mil	Good	2025/26	TBC	Good	2026/27	R6 mil	Poor	2024/26	R6.0 mil
Humansdorp	6.0 Ml/d Good	2024/25 (Gill Marcus)	R3.5 mil	Poor. Need 2.0Ml/d	2024/25	R6.0mil	Poor. Urgent	2024/25	R8.0mil	Poor	2024/30	R20.0 mil
Jeffreys Bay	7.9 Ml/d Good	2026/27	R3.0 mil	Poor. Need 2.0Ml/d	2025/26	R3.0mil	Good	2027/28	R10mil	Poor	2024/30	R50.0 mil
Loerie	N/A	N/A	N/A	Good	2024/25	R4.0mil	Good			Poor	2024/25	R1.0 mil
Patensie	2.0 Ml/d Poor	2025/26	R2.0 mil	Good	2025/26	TBC	Good	2025/26	R8.0mil	Poor	2024/28	R6.0 mil
St Francis Bay	1.9 Ml/d Good	2024/25	R1.0 mil	Poor. Need 1.0Ml/d	2024/25	R3.0mil	Average	2025/26	R10.0mil	Poor	2024/30	R20.0 mil
Thornhill	0.2 Ml/d N/A	2024/25	N/A	Good	2025/26	R0.3mil	Poor	2025/26	R6.0mil	Poor	2024/25	R1.0 mil
Oyster Bay	0.8 Ml/d Poor	2024/25	R2.5 mil	Good	2024/25	R1.0mil	Good	2028/29	R6.0mil	Poor	2024/26	R2.0 mil

Blue Drop Status

The Jeffreys Bay Water Treatment Works system was inspected to assess the condition and functionality of infrastructure and treatment processes on the ground, and to estimate the cost of restoration to full functionality. Jeffreys Bay Water Treatment Works: 76.9%

SANITATION/SEWERAGE

Wastewater or sanitation services form part of the overall water services as defined in the Water Services Development Plan (WSDP). The municipality is in process to review its sewer master plan.

Kouga Municipality adopted a by-law in 2015, that provides that acceptable standard for sanitation services be a waterborne system in all areas. Due to limited own capital funding for projects, bulk infrastructure upgrading/rehabilitation is mostly funded by grant funding. The backlog that presently exists at all Kouga Wastewater Treatment Plants in terms of over capacitation and ageing infrastructure, is 10,5Ml/Day.

Current Situation: Sanitation

Sewer is conveyed to the treatment facilities either by a water borne collector system or vacuum tanker service. Sewer services are available throughout the whole service area of the Kouga Municipality. Ensuring that sufficient treatment capacity is available for present and future demand is a key focus area for the municipality.

The municipality is also thriving to comply at its best to the Green Drop standards set out by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Highlights on Wastewater Provision

The table below set out all highlights on wastewater provision:

Highlights	Description
Upgrade of KwaNomzamo Wastewater Treatment Works (Contractor is on Site)	Refurbishment of all vandalized components of the works
Refurbishment of Hankey WWTW	Procuring contractor to conduct works
Refurbishment of Jeffreys Bay WWTW to improve quality of effluent discharged into downstream environment	Substantial repairs to mechanical and electrical equipment have been completed to improve the quality of discharged effluent to the required standard.

Challenges on Wastewater Provision

The table below indicates the challenges on wastewater provision:

Challenges	Action to Address
Vandalism in all areas	Security audit conducted to address security shortfalls and prevent vandalism

Challenges	Action to Address
Foreign objects discarded into sewer reticulation network	Creating community awareness and regular preventative jetting of pipelines.
Failing infrastructure	Upgrading of Lamer rising main, and
Lack of monitoring on the critical pumpstation sites.	Scada implemented. Live sump level monitoring as well as pump running times and pipeline pressures.

Sanitation Service Levels

Table 10: Sanitation Service Levels -2022

Sanitation Service Levels: 2022	Number	%
Flush toilet	24 302	84,7%
Chemical toilet	106	0,4%
Pit toilet	903	3,1%
Bucket toilet	2 568	9,0%
Other	255	0,9%
None	547	1,9%

Source: StatsSA, Census, 2022

Infrastructure Development: Sanitation

Town	Description							
	Sewer Reticulation				Wastewater Treatment Works			
	Condition	Year to upgrade	Cost (R)	Description	Condition	Year to upgrade	Cost (R)	Description
Hankey	Poor	2024/25	R15mil	Expand sewer network	Completely vandalised. 25% functional.	2023/24	R5.3m	Refurbishment of Hankey WWTW
Humansdorp	Poor	2024/30	R25mil	Expand sewer network	Mostly vandalised. 10% functional	2023/24	R43m	Refurbishment of Humansdorp WWTW
Jeffreys Bay	Average	2024/30	R40mil	Expand sewer network	90% functional	2023/24	Internal O&M budget	Repairs and maintenance of recycling pumps, dehydrator scheduled to be repaired
Loerie	Poor	2024/7	R9mil	Expand sewer network	Pond System			
St Francis Bay	Poor	2024/30	R50mil	Expand sewer network	SBR Tank system, 95% functional		Internal O&M budget	
Thornhill	Poor	2024/28	R18mil	Expand sewer network	Thornhill 60% functional due to vandalism	2023/24 &2024/25	Internal O&M Budget to be verified.	Refurbish all vandalised components at the works

Town	Description							
	Sewer Reticulation				Wastewater Treatment Works			
	Condition	Year to upgrade	Cost (R)	Description	Condition	Year to upgrade	Cost (R)	Description
Kruisfontein WWTW					80% functional	2023/24 &2024/25	Internal O&M Budget to be verified.	Refurbish all vandalised components at the works

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) aims to **ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**. Achieving this goal requires universal electricity access, transition to clean energy sources, improved energy efficiency, and strengthened energy infrastructure.

Kouga is positioning itself as a **renewable energy hub**, with multiple wind farms in operation and additional renewable projects (solar/biomass) in the pipeline. This underpins green jobs and resilience.

This report summarizes **South Africa's national SDG 7 performance** and highlights **Kouga Municipality's local initiatives**, which directly support cleaner and more reliable energy systems.

South Africa's SDG 7 Indicators (National Level)
South Africa provides data for **five out of six official SDG 7 indicators**, with the remaining indicator currently lacking data. According to the national SDG Goal Tracker:

Target 7.1 – Universal Access to Modern Energy
Indicator 7.1.1 – Proportion of population with access to electricity
South Africa tracks national electricity access through Stats SA's SDG dashboard, with data coverage confirmed for this indicator.

Indicator 7.1.2 – Proportion of population relying on clean fuels and technology
The indicator is fully covered at national scale; it measures reliance on clean cooking and heating technologies.

Target 7.2 – Renewable Energy Share in Total Final Energy Use
Indicator 7.2.1 – Renewable energy share
South Africa reports national data for this indicator, reflecting the country's progress on integrating solar, wind, hydro, and biomass into the energy grid.

Target 7.3 – Energy Efficiency
Indicator 7.3.1 – Energy intensity (primary energy per GDP)
Energy intensity is measured and reported nationally, indicating South Africa's progress on improving energy efficiency.

Target 7.a – Access to Clean Energy R&D and Technology
Indicator 7.a.1 – International financial flows to clean energy
South Africa currently has **no available data** for this indicator.

Target 7.b – Expand and Upgrade Energy Infrastructure
Indicator 7.b.1 – Installed renewable energy-generating capacity (watts per capita)
South Africa reports this indicator nationally, reflecting installed renewable capacity.

Progress Against Key Indicators

Indicator	Baseline	Current Status	Trend	Assessment
7.1.1 Access to electricity	Not consolidated	96.9% households use electricity for lighting	Improving	Very strong household access
7.1.2 Use of clean fuels and technologies	Nationally measured	Electrification programmes reducing reliance on paraffin and candles	Improving	Positive transition underway
7.2.1 Renewable energy share	Not available locally	20 MW solar initiative progressing	Improving	Strong future potential
7.3.1 Energy efficiency	Not standardised	LED streetlight programme and pump upgrades implemented	Improving	Indirect gains evident
7.b.1 Renewable energy capacity	Not available	Renewable energy projects in planning and implementation stages	Improving	Infrastructure expansion underway

Sources:

- Statistics South Africa Census 2022
- Kouga Local Municipality IDP (2022–2027)
- National SDG Goal Tracker
- Kouga Municipal infrastructure and renewable energy reports

Kouga Municipality – Local Energy Initiatives Supporting SDG 7

Although SDG data is not officially reported at municipal level, Kouga Municipality's **Integrated Development Plan (IDP)** and announcements provide insights into energy-related progress aligned with SDG 7.

Major Renewable Energy Project: 20 MW Solar Plant (Humansdorp)

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) completed and approved.

- Financial feasibility study underway.

Goals include:

- **Reducing reliance on Eskom**
- **Lowering local energy costs**
- **Supporting economic development**
- **Creating jobs**

This solar plant aligns directly with SDG 7.2 (renewable energy share) and 7.b (infrastructure expansion).

Strategic Priority: Reduced Reliance on Eskom
Kouga has identified lowering dependence on Eskom as one of its key short-term strategic goals (next 15 months).

This supports SDG 7's emphasis on **energy sustainability and reliability**.

Infrastructure Upgrades Supporting Energy-Dependent Services
R42 million upgrade: KwaNomzamo Wastewater Treatment Works

- Enhances treatment capacity
- Supports new housing development
- Strengthens essential infrastructure reliant on stable energy

Upgrading informal settlements (3,000+ households)

- Provides electricity, water, sanitation, and waste services
- Reduces reliance on unsafe or informal energy sources

Both initiatives indirectly advance SDG 7.1 (universal access to modern energy services).

Relationship Between National Indicators and Local Progress

SDG 7 Indicator	South Africa National Status	Kouga Local Alignment
7.1.1 Electricity access	Fully reported nationally	Expansion of services in informal settlements improves access
7.1.2 Clean fuels & tech	Reported nationwide	Local electrification reduces need for polluting fuels

7.2.1 Renewable energy share	National data available	20 MW solar project boosts renewable capacity locally
7.3.1 Energy intensity	National metric only	Municipal energy modernization supports efficiency indirectly
7.a.1 Clean energy financing	No national data	Local funding feasibility for solar plant underway
7.b.1 Renewable capacity (per capita)	Nationally tracked	Solar plant increases local installed capacity

Kouga Municipality is taking substantial steps that align with sustainable and modern energy targets:

- A **major 20 MW solar project** in Humansdorp
- Strategic commitment to **reducing Eskom dependency**
- **Infrastructure upgrades** improving energy-reliant services
- **Electrification and service expansion** for over 3,000 households

These initiatives demonstrate Kouga's alignment with SDG 7, particularly in promoting **renewable energy**, **energy reliability**, and **improved access to modern energy services**.

Energy for Lighting

Energy for Lighting	Number	%
Electricity from mains	27 786	96,9%
Gas	26	0,1%
Paraffin	464	1,6%
Candles	265	0,9%
Solar	81	0,3%
Other	27	0,1

Source: StatsSA, Census, 2022

Highlights on Electricity

The table below set out all highlights on electricity:

Highlights	Description
Electrification	220 Houses in Humansdorp (Donkerhoek) 169 Housing program phase 2 in Oceanview. 200 Electrification program to informal settlement Ebumnyameni 250 Electrification program in Sea Vista
Energy Efficiency	Installation of 504 LED streetlights replacing old streetlights.
	Installation of variable speed drives at 16 pumpstations.

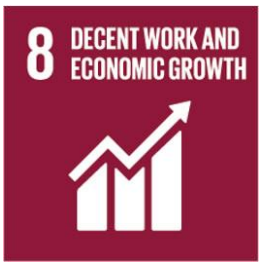
Highlights	Description
Bulk Infrastructure improvement	Procure material and 66kV structures to replace the pole structures with new steel structures.
Supply security	Upgrade Appiesdraai substation with an additional 3 150kVA transformer including switchgear.
	Replace the cable between Jeffreys bay main substation and Caltex miniature substation upgraded from 70mm to 120mm 11kV medium voltage cable.
Pumpstation upgrading	Sewer pumpstations within Kouga has been upgraded with new pumps, one pumpstation connected to SCADA system for efficiency.
Fleet	Managing and maintaining 252 strong fleet, the department strive to maintain a 95% availability at all times.
	Acquiring new additions to the fleet and yellow plant through a three-year lease with the option to own agreement.
SCADA	Tender to equip our substations with SCADA to operate our substations remotely and accommodate renewable energy projects.
Substation Capacity creating	Boskloof substation in Humansdorp upgraded from the current 6.3mVA to 15mVA transformer capacity, a new 2km, 300mm cable installed and a second feeder overhead line constructed to KwaNomzamo.
	Oceanview substation upgrade, from 5.6mVA to 10mVA to accommodate future electrification projects.
Electrification	Tyoksville in Thornhill, a transformer with a metering unit installation project to electrify Tyoksville in the recent future.

Challenges on Electricity

The table below set out all challenges on electricity:

Challenges	Action to Address
Staff	Critical shortage with skilled and experienced staff. Technical as well as administrative. Metering which will improve revue management is also part of the department functions and can currently not be properly implemented.
Vehicles	Effective and efficient vehicles to perform the duties especially access to difficult terrain.
Training	Technology change constantly and staff need to be skilled to keep up with the latest technology and to be in compliance.
Vandalism and cable theft	Safety and security to be prioritized. Costly infrastructure damage occurs regularly resulting in extended power failures and environmental pollution.
Loadshedding	Critical to manage to prevent network damage, this requires great human resources, as a result, fatigue occur amongst staff. It also causes higher than average faults and network failures.

Challenges	Action to Address
Regulatory requirements	The department is regulated and require the necessary regulatory requirements to be adhered to.
Office Accommodation	The department staff is scattered, proper coordination cannot be maintained due to staff separation.
Infrastructure development	Infrastructure does not receive the necessary upgrades due to budget allocations, higher budget allocations to be provided in order to upgrade networks.



The **IEG Strategy review** targets inclusive growth across agriculture, manufacturing, property development, oceans economy, green energy, and nature-based tourism—with an emphasis on resilience and competitiveness. While Kouga Municipality does **not publish a dedicated SDG 8 indicator dashboard**, KM has mapped the **official UN SDG 8 indicators** to the **local economic data, strategies, and development priorities** reflected in Kouga's municipal documents.

Key relevant global SDG 8 indicators include:

8.1 – Economic Growth
- **8.1.1** – Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita
- **8.1.2** – Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

8.3 – Formalization & MSMEs
- **8.3.1** – Proportion of informal employment by sector

8.5 – Employment & Equal Pay
- **8.5.1** – Average hourly earnings
- **8.5.2** – Unemployment rate (youth, male, female)

8.6 – Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- **8.6.1** – Youth NEET rate

8.9 – Tourism-based Employment & GDP
- **8.9.1** – Tourism direct GDP
- **8.9.2** – Tourism jobs as a share of total jobs

8.10 – Access to Financial Services

- **8.10.1** – Number of bank branches per 100,000 adults
- **8.10.2** – Proportion of adults with access to financial services

Progress Against Key Indicators

Indicator	Baseline	Current Status	Trend	Assessment
8.1 Economic growth	Variable	Average annual growth forecast: 1.08% (2022–2027)	Moderate	Positive but below national average
8.3 Entrepreneurship and MSMEs	Not consolidated	Enterprise and skills programmes implemented	Improving	Further monitoring needed
8.5 Employment	32,500 jobs (2012)	37,700 jobs (2022)	Improving	Employment growth evident
8.5 Unemployment	16.2% (2012)	29.1% (2022)	Worsening	Significant challenge remains
8.6 Youth employment	Not available	Youth-focused skills initiatives underway	Improving	Data standardisation required
8.9 Tourism contribution	Existing tourism economy	Major tourism nodes support growth	Stable	Strong economic contributor
8.10 Financial access	Limited local data	Financial literacy and SMME support initiatives	Improving	Data gap remains

Sources

- South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443 (2024)
- Kouga Local Municipality IDP (2022–2027)
- Kouga Integrated Economic Growth Strategy
- Statistics South Africa
- UN SDG Indicator Framework

Kouga Municipality Economic Indicators Linked to SDG 8

Kouga's local economic strategy highlights **employment creation, entrepreneurship development, sector growth, and inclusivity**, which align directly with SDG 8 targets. These insights come mainly from the **Kouga Integrated Economic Growth Strategy** and local economic development programmes.

SDG 8.1 – Economic Growth in Kouga
Kouga's economic strategy identifies several **high-potential growth sectors**:

- **Agriculture**
- **Oceans economy**
- **Tourism**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Green energy**
  These are highlighted as key engines for inclusive growth.

Kouga indicators:

- Sector growth rate (% per year)
- Investment inflows into priority sectors
- Local GDP contribution per sector

SDG 8.3 – Entrepreneurship, MSMEs & Informal Sector
Kouga's Economic Development (ED) section actively supports **skills programmes and micro-enterprise development**, including training in upholstery, shoemaking, sewing, and women-owned business empowerment.
Kouga indicators:

- Number of SMMEs supported per year
- Number of participants completing enterprise training
- Percentage of informal businesses transitioning to formal registration

SDG 8.5 – Full Employment & Decent Work
Kouga's economic strategy highlights the need for improved employment creation, especially in:

- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Green energy
- Manufacturing

Kouga indicators:

- Unemployment rate (overall & youth)
- Jobs created per sector annually
- Participation in Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

SDG 8.6 – Youth NEET Reduction
Kouga's training initiatives target young unemployed residents, enhancing employability through practical skills training.

Kouga indicators:

- Number of youth trained in accredited programmes
- % youth supported transitioning into employment or self-employment

SDG 8.9 – Sustainable Tourism
Tourism is a major economic sector for Kouga (Jeffreys Bay, St Francis Bay, Cape St Francis, Gamtoos Valley). Local tourism data (trips, purpose of travel, domestic vs international) is documented in municipal reports.

Kouga indicators:

- Tourism employment share
- Number of annual visitors to Kouga
- Tourism revenue as % of local GDP

SDG 8.10 – Access to Financial Services
While Kouga documents do not provide bank access statistics, MSME support programs indicate reliance on improved financial inclusion.

Kouga indicators:

- Number of entrepreneurs receiving financial literacy training
- Number of businesses accessing micro-finance or loans

3. SDG 8 Indicator Framework for Kouga Municipality

SDG Target	Relevant Indicator for Kouga	Local Source Alignment
8.1 Economic growth	Sector GDP growth; investment in agriculture, tourism, oceans economy	Kouga Economic Growth Strategy
8.3 MSME & entrepreneurship	Number of SMMEs supported; informal-to-formal transitions	Entrepreneur training programmes

8.5 Employment	Jobs created; unemployment rate; EPWP participation	Economic sector profiles
8.6 Youth employment	Youth NEET rate; training programme completions	Entrepreneur development projects
8.9 Tourism	Tourism job share; number of visitors	Tourism data tables
8.10 Financial access	Number trained in financial literacy; MSME loan uptake	Municipal ED support initiatives

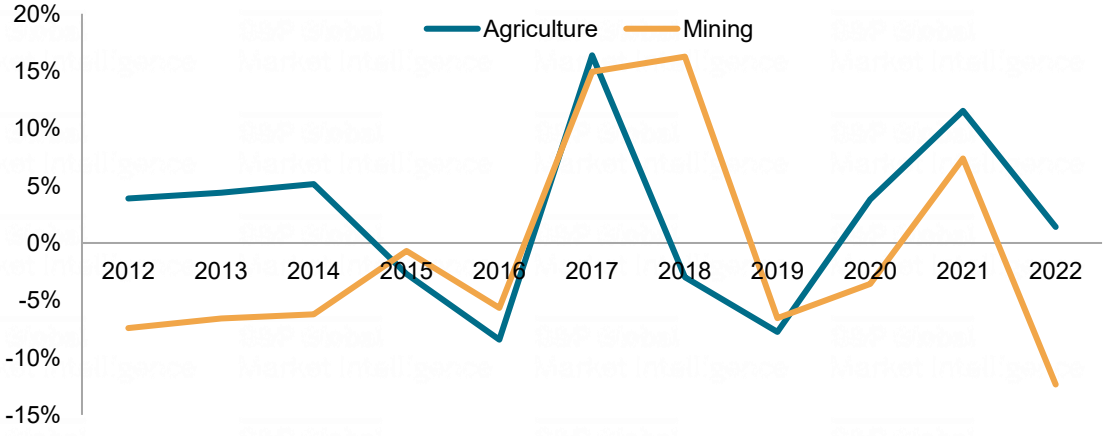
Economic Growth Focus

From 2022 to 2027, Kouga Local Municipality is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.08%. It is anticipated that the GDPs of the Eastern Cape Province and Sarah Baartman District Municipality will expand at average annual rates of 1.47% and 1.05%, respectively. South Africa is expected to grow at a rate that is higher than the Kouga Local Municipality, with an average annual growth rate of 1.76%.

Primary Sector

The mining and agricultural industries make up the two main economic sectors that comprise the primary sector. The average growth rate in the GVA for each of these sectors in Kouga Local Municipality between 2012 and 2022 is shown in the following chart.

Chart 2:Gross value added (GVA) by primary sector - Kouga, 2012-2022 [Annual percentage change]



Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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With an average growth rate of 16.4% between 2012 and 2022, the agriculture industry saw the strongest positive growth in 2017. In 2018, the mining industry experienced its highest growth rate of 16.3%. The mining sector reached its lowest point of growth in 2022

at -12.3%, while the agricultural sector recorded the lowest growth for the period during 2016 at -8.4%. The mining and agriculture industries are both typically characterized by growth that is erratic over time.

Employment & decent work

Everyone who is of working age (after a particular age and under retirement) and engaged in the labour force is defined as those who are actively seeking employment or are employed. The economically active population (EAP) is another name for this group. Students, retirees, stay-at-home parents, inmates in jails or comparable facilities, those in occupations or professions with undisclosed income, and discouraged workers who are jobless are not included.

Table 11:Working age population in Kouga, Sarah Baartman, Eastern Cape and National Total, 2012 and 2022 [Number]

	Kouga		Sarah Baartman		Eastern Cape		National Total	
	2012	2022	2012	2022	2012	2022	2012	2022
15-19	7,620	8,040	38,100	36,800	744,000	699,000	5,010,000	5,100,000
20-24	10,200	9,200	50,400	42,600	761,000	591,000	5,410,000	4,580,000
25-29	11,300	13,300	48,700	52,600	634,000	672,000	5,220,000	5,210,000
30-34	8,660	13,700	36,000	53,300	441,000	690,000	4,220,000	5,600,000
35-39	6,630	11,400	28,500	48,700	315,000	577,000	3,470,000	5,220,000
40-44	5,850	8,640	25,700	37,700	273,000	404,000	2,950,000	4,060,000
45-49	5,320	6,280	24,000	26,700	268,000	288,000	2,590,000	3,240,000
50-54	4,400	4,760	21,600	21,800	269,000	249,000	2,240,000	2,710,000
55-59	3,880	4,390	18,200	19,900	234,000	242,000	1,850,000	2,340,000
60-64	3,600	4,390	15,100	18,000	195,000	237,000	1,490,000	1,970,000
Total	**67,500**	**84,100**	**306,000**	**358,000**	**4,130,000**	**4,650,000**	**34,500,000**	**40,000,000**

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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In Kouga, there were 84 200 people of working age in 2022, having grown at a 2.24% average annual rate since 2012. During that same period, the Eastern Cape Province's working-age population increased at a rate of 1.18% annually, whereas the population of Sarah Baartman District Municipality increased at a rate of 1.57% annually. The number of South Africans in working age climbed from 34.5 million in 2012 to 40 million in 2022, an annual growth of 1.51%.

Total employment

An essential component of estimating unemployment is employment data. Furthermore, patterns in employment across various sectors and industries typically point to important structural shifts in the economy. Productivity, earnings per worker, and other economic indicators are computed using employment data.

Total employment consists of two parts: employment in the formal sector, and employment in the informal sector

Table 12:Total employment - Kouga, Sarah Baartman, Eastern Cape and National Total, 2012-2022 [numbers]

	Kouga	Sarah Baartman	Eastern Cape	National Total
2012	32,500	140,000	1,240,000	14,000,000
2013	33,700	145,000	1,270,000	14,400,000
2014	35,800	153,000	1,340,000	15,000,000
2015	37,400	160,000	1,400,000	15,500,000
2016	38,400	164,000	1,430,000	15,800,000
2017	38,900	165,000	1,440,000	16,000,000
2018	38,900	165,000	1,440,000	16,200,000
2019	38,800	163,000	1,430,000	16,200,000
2020	36,900	153,000	1,350,000	15,400,000
2021	35,700	147,000	1,300,000	14,800,000
2022	37,700	156,000	1,370,000	15,300,000
Average Annual growth				
2012-2022	*1.49*%	*1.09*%	*1.05*%	*0.92*%

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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37 700 people were employed by Kouga in 2022, which represents 24.19% of all jobs in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality (156 000), 2.75% of all jobs in the Eastern Cape Province (1.37 million), and 0.25% of all jobs in South Africa (15.3 million). From 2012 to 2022, Kouga's employment grew at an average yearly rate of 1.49%.

Table 13:Total employment per broad economic sector - Kouga and the rest of Sarah Baartman, 2022 [Numbers]

	Kouga	Dr Beyers Naude	Blue Crane Route	Makana	Ndlambe	Sundays River Valley	Kou-Kamma	Total Sarah Baartman
Agriculture	9,300	2,220	347	1,590	3,890	9,290	7,000	33,639
Mining	7	4	1	2	17	1	1	33
Manufacturing	3,010	3,620	1,250	2,800	1,450	1,290	1,770	15,200
Electricity	97	32	11	28	12	38	101	318
Construction	3,510	1,840	653	2,020	2,080	1,220	1,790	13,122
Trade	7,640	5,050	2,330	4,610	3,480	3,510	3,710	30,327
Transport	1,570	1,910	549	1,380	727	708	866	7,714
Finance	3,340	2,420	1,070	3,040	1,910	1,200	1,500	14,496
Community services	6,290	3,930	1,890	6,350	3,710	2,760	2,910	27,845
Households	2,940	1,790	859	2,330	1,940	1,800	1,500	13,151
Total	**37,700**	**22,800**	**8,960**	**24,200**	**19,200**	**21,800**	**21,200**	**155,846**

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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Within its local municipality, Kouga Local Municipality employs 37,700 people. Moreover, Kouga Local Municipality has the greatest employment rate in Sarah Baartman District Municipality. Blue Crane Route local municipality, which employs 8 960 people overall, is the one with the fewest workers compared to the other sections of Sarah Baartman District Municipality.

With a total of 9 300 employed individuals, or 24.7% of all jobs in Kouga Local Municipality, the agriculture sector was the economic sector with the highest number of jobs in 2022. Compared to the other industries, the trade industry employs the second most people, with a total of 7, 640 (20.3%). In Kouga Local Municipality, the industry with the fewest employees is mining, employing 6.69 (0.0%), followed by the power sector, which employs 97.3 (0.3%).

Unemployment

The unemployed includes all persons between 15 and 65 who are currently not working, but who are actively looking for work. It therefore excludes people who are not actively seeking work (referred to as discouraged work seekers).

Unemployment rate (official definition) - Kouga, Sarah Baartman, Eastern Cape and National Total, 2012-2022 [Percentage]

	Kouga	Sarah Baartman	Eastern Cape	National Total
2012	16.2%	18.3%	28.9%	25.1%
2013	16.7%	18.8%	29.6%	25.2%
2014	16.4%	18.6%	29.4%	25.2%
2015	16.1%	18.3%	29.2%	25.5%
2016	17.1%	19.5%	30.5%	26.4%
2017	19.1%	21.8%	32.9%	27.2%
2018	20.9%	23.6%	35.0%	27.4%
2019	23.6%	26.5%	38.0%	28.4%
2020	26.9%	30.4%	41.5%	30.3%
2021	30.4%	34.2%	44.9%	33.6%
2022	**29.1%**	**32.8%**	**43.8%**	**33.7%**

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2443.
Data compiled on 15 Jan 2024.
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Entrepreneurship & small business development

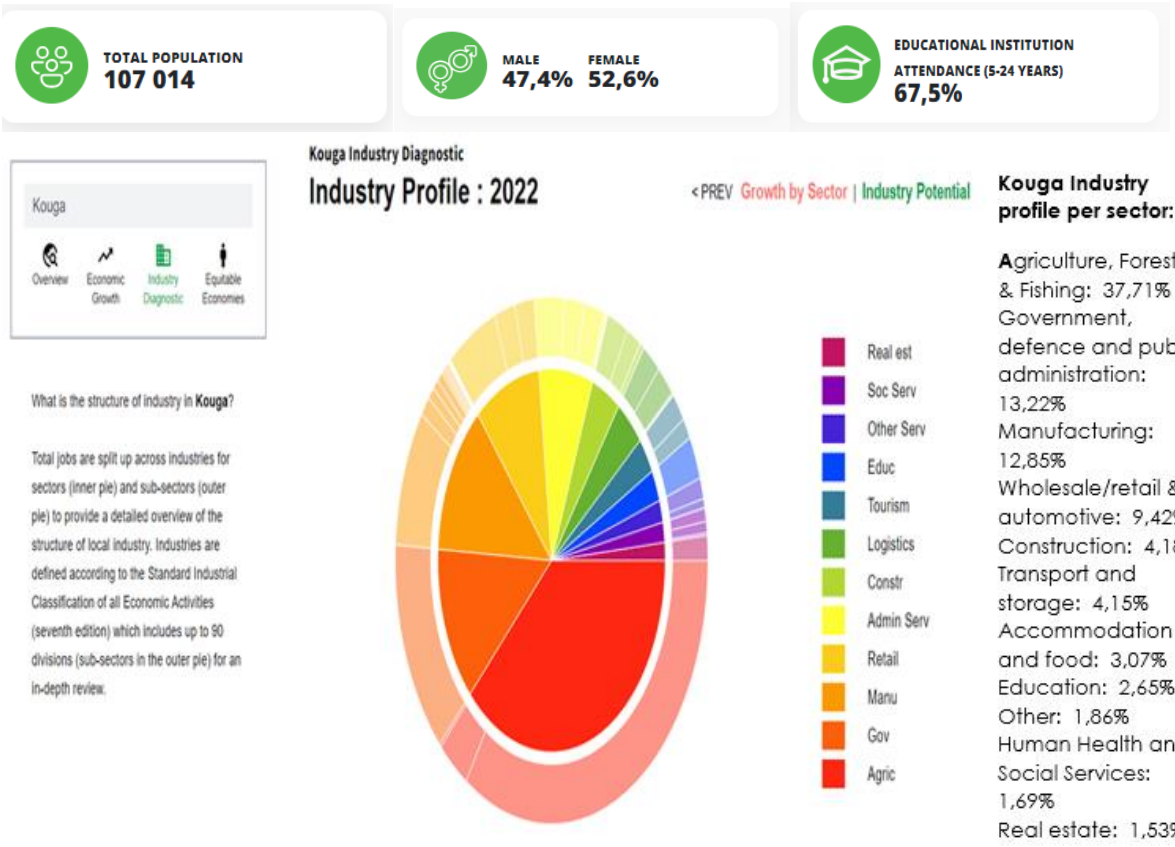
The key principles underpinning LED, according to the Department of Local Government, are as follows:

- LED strategies must prioritise job creation and poverty alleviation
- LED must target previously disadvantaged people, marginalised communities, black economic empowerment, SMMEs and enterprise development in order to ensure an inclusive economy where all can participate fully in the economic life of the area.
- LED should aim to promote tourism, develop local tourist sites and facilities, as well as improve security.
- LED should promote investment through marketing the area, its infrastructure and people to local and international businesses and investors.

The Kouga Municipal area is made up of socially, historically, culturally, economically diverse communities. The area has experienced a rapid growth of urbanisation in recent years, and the trend is anticipated to grow in view of the planned

developments in the Kouga Area. Humansdorp and Jeffreys Bay are the two primary urban settlements where the main retail and commercial activities are concentrated.

Kouga statistics



The top 10 sectors ranked here are most important for jobs and livelihoods. The economic outlook depends on the capacity of firms in these sectors to expand, adapt and innovate or otherwise risk becoming a drag on economic performance. Non-tradable sectors such as government services tend to be stable but are inherently constrained by the size of local economy (i.e. local demand). Tradable sectors can compete in surrounding (and even international) markets but must be competitive to thrive.

Kouga Municipality Indicators

The **SDF Review** provides the spatial logic for compact, inclusive, and climate-resilient settlements (densification where appropriate, settlement upgrading, risk-aware development). This mapping shows **how each global SDG 11 indicator aligns with Kouga Municipality's programmes, infrastructure, environmental management, disaster planning, and urban development**, based on KM IDP, Annual Reports, and documented initiatives.
Progress Against Key Indicators

Indicator	**Baseline**	**Current Status**	**Trend**	**Assessment**
11.1.1 Informal settlements / inadequate housing	Not consolidated	Nine informal settlements identified for upgrading	Improving	Strong alignment, but backlog remains
11.2.1 Access to public transport / mobility	Not standardised	Road resealing, repairs and stormwater upgrades underway	Improving	Mobility infrastructure improving
11.3.1 Sustainable land use	MSDF in place	SDF Review guiding compact and resilient growth	Improving	Strong planning foundation
11.3.2 Public participation	Annual IDP process	Ward-based IDP participation undertaken	Stable	Participation system in place
11.5 Disaster resilience	Not consolidated	Climate change and disaster risk planning underway	Improving	Data standardisation required
11.6 Waste management	Municipal service provided	Refuse collection, landfill and waste minimisation	Stable	Ongoing service delivery function

Indicator	Baseline	Current Status	Trend	Assessment
		programmes implemented		
11.7 Public spaces	Not consolidated	Parks, environmental and Keep Kouga Clean initiatives implemented	Improving	Improved public environment focus

Sources

- Kouga Local Municipality IDP
- Kouga Spatial Development Framework Review
- Kouga Annual Reports
- Kouga environmental, infrastructure and disaster risk initiatives
- UN SDG Indicator Framework

11.1 — Housing & Basic Services

Indicator 11.1.1 — Urban population living in slums / informal settlements

- Kouga is **upgrading nine informal settlements** as part of its infrastructure improvement and housing expansion strategy.

- Several **new housing projects** and **a social housing initiative** form part of the IDP priorities.

11.2 — Sustainable Transport & Road Safety

Indicator 11.2.1 — Access to public transport

- Kouga prioritises **transport infrastructure**, focusing on road upgrades and safe mobility.
- The municipality highlights **road resealing, repair programmes (including pothole repair vehicles)**, and improved stormwater systems.

11.3 — Inclusive & Sustainable Urbanization

Indicator 11.3.1 — Land consumption vs population growth

- Kouga uses spatial planning tools like the **Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF)** to control land use, manage growth and guide sustainable settlement development.

Indicator 11.3.2 — Civil society participation in planning

- The municipality runs extensive **public participation processes** during annual **IDP reviews** across all wards, ensuring community input.
- Annual IDP assessments rely on ward meetings and stakeholder engagements.

11.4 — Protecting Cultural and Natural Heritage

Indicator 11.4.1 — Expenditure on preservation of cultural/natural heritage

- Kouga's environmental management programmes (e.g., nature conservation, waste minimisation, coastal protection) align with protecting natural heritage.

- Its drought mitigation and groundwater protection actions indirectly preserve natural resources tied to heritage value.

11.5 — Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience

Indicator 11.5.1 — Disaster-related deaths & affected persons

Indicator 11.5.2 — Economic loss, infrastructure damage, service disruption

- Kouga has a **climate change strategy** to improve adaptation and mitigation measures.

- Drought mitigation (groundwater development, reticulation upgrades) helps protect vulnerable citizens.

- Infrastructure security and disaster planning appear throughout the municipality's IDP and annual report.

11.6 — Reducing Environmental Impact (Air Quality & Waste)

Indicator 11.6.1 — Waste collection & controlled disposal

- Kouga has structured **waste management services**, including:
  - Refuse collection
  - Landfill management
  - Waste minimisation efforts
  - Environmental management programmes

Indicator 11.6.2 — Air quality levels (PM2.5/PM10)

- Air quality management is part of the broader environmental strategies, including reducing emissions from municipal buildings through planned energy efficiency measures.

11.7 — Public Spaces

Indicator 11.7.1 — Access to green/public open spaces

- Kouga's environmental and parks programmes (e.g., KEEP KOUGA CLEAN AND GREEN environmental management initiatives) indirectly support maintenance of accessible green spaces.

Indicator 11.7.2 — Safety in public spaces (harassment reporting)

- Public safety in spaces is indirectly supported through improved infrastructure, lighting, and cleaner, well-maintained public environments via waste and environmental services.

11.a — Urban–Rural Linkages

Indicator 11.a.1 — Cities implementing regional development plans

- Kouga implements the **Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF)** to integrate rural, peri-urban, and urban growth.

- IDP planning aligns municipal and district-level development priorities.

11.b — Climate & Disaster Planning

Indicator 11.b.1 & 11.b.2 — Local disaster risk reduction strategies

- Kouga has a **climate change strategy** to guide resilience and disaster response.
- Planning includes securing municipal infrastructure, reducing environmental risks, and integrating climate actions into IDPs.

11.c — Sustainable Building (Least Developed Countries)

Indicator 11.c.1 — Support for sustainable buildings using local materials

- Kouga's move toward renewable energy systems (e.g., feasibility of a **100MW power plant**) promotes sustainable municipal infrastructure.

SDG 11 – KOUGA MUNICIPALITY VISUAL MAPPING MATRIX

SDG 11 Indicator	Description	Kouga Municipality Actions / Evidence
11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums / informal settlements	Kouga is **upgrading nine informal settlements** and implementing **multiple new housing projects**, including social housing.
11.2.1	Population with convenient access to public transport	Kouga invests in **transport and road upgrades**, including resealing, stormwater systems, and a **pothole repair vehicle** to improve safe mobility.
11.3.1	Ratio of land consumption to population growth	Land use is guided through the **Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF)** to ensure sustainable spatial planning.
11.3.2	Civil society participation in urban planning	Kouga conducts **IDP public participation meetings** across all wards and stakeholders annually.
11.4.1	Expenditure on cultural & natural heritage protection	Kouga's **environmental management**, waste minimisation and drought mitigation protect natural heritage (e.g., ecosystems, water resources).
11.5.1 / 11.5.2	Disaster deaths, affected persons, economic losses & infrastructure disruption	Climate adaptation strategy in progress; **drought mitigation**, groundwater development, and infrastructure protection efforts underway.
11.6.1	Waste collected and disposed in controlled facilities	Kouga provides **refuse collection**, **landfill management**, **waste minimisation**, and broad environmental management services.
11.6.2	Air quality (PM2.5 / PM10)	Municipal plan includes **energy-efficiency improvements** in buildings to reduce emissions and environmental impact.
11.7.1	Public access to safe, inclusive, green spaces	Programmes such as **KEEP KOUGA CLEAN**, environmental management and parks upkeep support accessible public spaces.
11.7.2	Reduction of harassment in public spaces	Improved infrastructure, lighting, waste management and cleanliness contribute indirectly to safer public environments.
11.a.1	Urban–rural integrated development planning	Kouga implements MSDF and aligns IDP with district-level development for integrated growth.
11.b.1 / 11.b.2	Local disaster risk-reduction strategies aligned with Sendai Framework	Kouga developing **climate change strategy**, strengthening disaster resilience and infrastructure security.
11.c.1	Support for sustainable, resilient buildings (for least-developed countries)	Not directly applicable to SA, but Kouga's **renewable energy plan** (100MW plant feasibility) strengthens sustainable infrastructure.

Coastal settlements (Jeffreys Bay, St Francis Bay, Cape St Francis) face **coastal hazards** and climate risks; the SDF review and green-economy focus create a framework for adaptation and mitigation. SDG 13 has globally defined indicators. While these indicators are **not reported at municipal level by default**, Kouga's 2022 Climate Change Strategy and risk assessments provide local context relevant to the targets.

Below are the official **SDG 13 indicators**, paired with **Kouga-relevant interpretation** where possible.

Progress Against Key Indicators

Indicator	**Baseline**	**Current Status**	**Trend**	**Assessment**
13.1.1 Disaster impacts and affected population	Not standardised	Hazard and vulnerability assessments undertaken	Improving	Risk identification improving
13.1.2 Disaster risk reduction strategy	No baseline available	Municipal climate strategy adopted	Improving	Strong institutional alignment
13.1.3 Local risk reduction planning	Developing	Strategy aligned to national frameworks	Improving	Good policy alignment
13.2.1 Climate integration into planning	Limited	Climate considerations integrated across sectors	Improving	Mainstreaming underway
13.3 Education and capacity building	Not consolidated	Staff and community awareness programmes included	Improving	Further measurement required

Indicator	Baseline	Current Status	Trend	Assessment
13.a Climate finance	National indicator	Municipal access through support programmes	Partial	Local data unavailable
13.b Capacity support	Limited	International technical support received	Improving	Capacity strengthened

Sources

- Kouga Climate Change Strategy (2022)
- Kouga IDP (2022–2027)
- Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- GIZ Urban Climate Resilience Toolbox Programme
- UN SDG Indicator Framework

SDG 13.1 — Strengthen resilience & adaptive capacity

Indicators

13.1.1 – Deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disasters per 100,000 people
13.1.2 – Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
13.1.3 – Proportion of local governments adopting disaster risk reduction strategies aligned to national frameworks

Kouga Context

- Kouga **has a municipal Climate Change Strategy** that addresses hazards such as **drought, sea-level rise, flooding**, and infrastructure vulnerability.
- The strategy includes a **Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment** for all wards.
- This positions Kouga as aligned with **indicator 13.1.3**, as it implements a local disaster/risk reduction strategy.

SDG 13.2 — Integrate climate change into planning

Indicators

13.2.1 – Countries with integrated climate policies (NDCs, adaptation plans, etc.)

Kouga Context

- Kouga's municipal Climate Change Strategy aims to **mainstream climate change into municipal management**, aligning local planning with national frameworks.
- The strategy provides direction for climate adaptation and mitigation projects **across all sectors** (water, energy, biodiversity, waste, coastal management, health).

Although this indicator is meant for national governments, Kouga's actions mirror the intent at a local scale.

SDG 13.3 — Education, awareness & capacity-building

Indicators

13.3.1 – Countries integrating climate change into curricula
13.3.2 – Strengthening of institutional & individual climate capacity

Kouga Context

- Kouga's strategy includes **public awareness**, capacity-building of municipal staff, and engagement with stakeholders.
- Community education on water conservation and disaster preparedness forms part of its climate response.

SDG 13.a — Climate finance commitment

Indicators

13.a.1 – Amount mobilized toward the $100B climate finance commitment [13]

Kouga Context

- This indicator is **national-level only**.
- Kouga benefits indirectly through national and provincial climate support programmes (e.g., GIZ Climate Support Program adaptation assistance).

SDG 13.b — Capacity-building for local planning

Indicators

13.b.1 – Support to least developed countries & small island states (capacity-building, finance, etc.)

Kouga Context

- Although South Africa is not classified under this indicator, Kouga receives **international technical support**, such as the GIZ Urban Climate Resilience Toolbox, which directly supported the municipality's climate adaptation planning.

Summary Table: SDG 13 Indicators + Kouga Relevance

SDG 13 Indicator	Global Meaning	Kouga Local Relevance
13.1.1	Disaster deaths/affected population	Reflected in Kouga's hazard & vulnerability assessments.
13.1.2	Existence of risk-reduction strategies	Kouga has a municipal climate & DRR strategy.
13.1.3	Local DRR strategies aligned to national frameworks	Kouga's strategy aligns with national climate frameworks.
13.2.1	Climate integration into planning	Kouga mainstreams climate considerations across all sectors.
13.3.1 / 13.3.2	Education & capacity-building	Kouga includes staff training & community awareness.
13.a.1	Global climate financing	Not municipality-specific; SA national indicator.
13.b.1	Capacity-building support to vulnerable countries	Kouga benefits from GIZ capacity-building programmes.

The VLR promotes **vertical coherence** (municipality ↔ district/province ↔ national) and horizontal partnerships (business, universities, IPPs, NGOs). UN-DESA encourages linking VLR outputs to national VNR processes.

17.1 – Domestic resource mobilization

- **Own revenue as % of operating revenue** (Finance) — *own revenue / total operating revenue*.
- **Revenue collection rate** (Finance) — *cash collected / billed*.

17.3 – Mobilize financial resources

- **Grants & donations as % of total budget** (Budget & Treasury) — *transfers + donations / total budget*.
- **Value of co-financing leveraged with partners (R p.a.)** (ED/PMU) — Capex/Opex co-funding from private sector/NGOs.

17.4 – Debt sustainability (local proxy)

- **Debt-service ratio** — *debt service / operating revenue*.

17.6, 17.7, 17.8 – Science/tech/innovation & ICT

- **Active R&D/innovation collaborations (count)** (ICT/ED) — formal projects with universities/tech partners. (MOU's)
- **Households with internet access (% of households in Kouga)** (Stats SA Census/CS) — local ICT access proxy for 17.8. Source: Stats SA municipal data (Census 2022).
- **Open data assets published (count)** (GIS/ICT) — datasets on the municipal portal. Kouga's ArcGIS Hub/Mapping Portal can serve as the repository.

17.9 – Capacity building

- **Staff receiving partner-funded training (number, hours)** (HR) — per year. Source: HR training logs/partner reports.

17.13 – Policy coherence & stability (local financial mgmt proxies)

- **Cash coverage days** (Finance) — *unrestricted cash / average daily operating expenses*. Source: AFS.
- **Budget variance (% deviation)** (BTO) — *actual vs approved*. Source: in-year reports.

17.14 & 17.15 – Policy coherence & country systems

- **Plans aligned to NDP/SDG (share of strategies with explicit alignment)** (IDP/Strategic Services). Kouga's own strategies reference national/SDG alignment—use this as baseline.
- **MFMA reporting compliance (% on-time statutory returns)** (BTO).

17.16 & 17.17 – Multi-stakeholder partnerships

- **Active MoUs/partnerships (count)** (Office of the MM / LED).
- **Projects delivered via partnerships (% of total project portfolio)** (PMU).
- **Partnership value realized (R)** — cash + in-kind contributions recognized.

17.18 & 17.19 – Data, monitoring & accountability

- **Data availability (% of indicators with current data)** (Strategic Services/M&E).
- **Indicators with published metadata (% of total)** — definition + formula + source captured.
- **Open datasets updated on schedule (% of datasets)** (ICT/GIS) — aligns with open-data practice via Kouga Hub.

SDG 17 Indicator	Baseline	Current Status	Trend	Assessment
17.1 – Revenue mobilization	Existing municipal revenue base	Financial strengthening initiatives ongoing	Improving	Revenue sustainability improving
17.3 – External resource mobilization	Existing grants and transfers	Partnership and grant funding utilised	Stable	Further diversification required
17.16 / 17.17 – Partnership development	Existing partnerships	Multi-sector partnerships active	Improving	Strong collaboration culture
17.6 / 17.8 – Technology and innovation	Developing	Smart systems and digital initiatives expanding	Improving	Innovation potential increasing
17.9 – Capacity building	Existing training initiatives	Partner-supported skills programmes implemented	Improving	Institutional capacity strengthening

SDG 17 Indicator	Baseline	Current Status	Trend	Assessment
17.18 / 17.19 – Data systems	Fragmented	SDG and municipal data systems developing	Improving	Major opportunity area
17.13 / 17.14 / 17.15 – Policy alignment	Existing planning framework	Strong NDP, IDP and SDG alignment	Strong	High institutional alignment

These selections map local, controllable measures to the **global SDG 17 framework** (targets/definitions) and to **South Africa's SDG Goal Tracker** coverage for Goal 17. This keeps Kouga's reporting consistent with national practice while staying actionable at municipal level.

SDG 17 Indicator Table – Kouga Municipality

SDG 17 Target	Local Indicator for Kouga Municipality	How It Will Be Measured	Relevant Source Alignment
17.1 – Strengthen domestic resource mobilization	Increase in local revenue & external funding secured	Annual municipal financial reports; investment dashboards	Finance targets emphasize strengthening domestic resource capacity.
17.2 – Development assistance commitments	Number of partnerships with donors & development agencies	Signed MoUs; donor project counts	International support for developing regions.
17.3 – Mobilize additional financial resources	Value of investments attracted through PPPs & DFIs	Reports from DBSA/IDC/SEFA partnerships; LED reports	Kouga strategy emphasizes public-private collaboration.
17.4 – Debt sustainability support	Amount of grants leveraged vs. loans to support development	Financial sustainability statements	Promotes support for debt management in developing regions.
17.5 – Investment promotion regimes	Number of investment promotion events (e.g., annual Kouga Investment Summit)	Attendance & investor-interest tracking	Investment promotion aligns with SDG 17's call for investment regimes.
17.6 – Technology cooperation	Number of technologies-transfer partnerships (ICT, Smart City, agri-tech)	ICT project logs; MoUs - universities/tech firms	Kouga strategy includes SMART city & innovation pillars.

17.7 – Environmentally sound technologies	Adoption of green-energy technologies (solar, biogas, ocean-energy pilots)	Renewable-energy project reports	Promotion of environmentally sound technologies.
17.8 – Technology & innovation capacity-building	Number of ICT and Smart City systems operationalized	Municipal ICT progress reports	Enabling technology & innovation.
17.9 – Capacity-building	Number of skills programs implemented with SETAs, NGOs, universities	Training records; beneficiary tracking	Targeted capacity-building for developing regions.
17.10 – Promote fair global trade system	Number of businesses accessing export markets	Export council data; SMME tracking	Equitable trade systems.
17.11 – Increase exports	Percentage increase in agricultural, tourism, and ocean-economy exports	Sector performance metrics via LED office	Kouga's economy relies on agriculture, oceans & tourism sectors.
17.12 – Duty-free/quota-free market access	Number of Kouga SMMEs linked to national export programs	Export readiness assessments	Improved access for least-developed regions.
17.13 – Policy coherence	Adoption of integrated planning frameworks aligned with SDGs	IDP, LED, and strategy alignment reviews	Coherence in sustainable development policy.
17.14 – Enhance policy coherence mechanisms	Number of interdepartmental SDG reviews conducted annually	Municipal governance & planning records	Coherent policy implementation.
17.15 – Respect national leadership in planning	Degree of alignment to national frameworks (NDP, PDP, SBDP)	Strategy review reports	Kouga strategy explicitly aligns with national & provincial development plans.
17.16 – Multi-stakeholder partnerships	Number of active partnerships across public, private, NGO sectors	Partnership Forum reports	Kouga emphasizes collaboration with multiple stakeholders.
17.17 – Encourage effective public-private partnerships	Number of PPP agreements implemented	Municipal project documentation	Kouga calls PPPs essential for economic growth.
17.18 – Data availability	Quality of SDG data tracking (annual SDG reporting)	SDG municipal data dashboards	SDG 17 stresses strengthening data systems.

17.19 – Statistical capacity-building	Number of municipal staff trained in M&E and data management	HR training logs	SDG 17 highlights improved statistical capacity.

Gaps And Mitigation

- **Data fragmentation:** Multiple systems and partners hold critical datasets (services, energy, tourism). **Mitigation:** Sign **data-sharing MoUs**; create a centralized SDG data repository and stewardship roles per indicator. (UNECE guidance)
- **Resource constraints:** Competing budget priorities can slow SDG-aligned projects. **Mitigation:** Introduce **SDG/climate budget tagging** to prioritize high-impact CAPEX.
- **Climate and coastal risks:** Intensifying hazards threaten infrastructure and livelihoods. **Mitigation:** Integrate **SDF risk layers** and **IEG resilience measures** into project selection and land-use decisions.

Conclusion

The adoption of the SDG Implementation Framework positions Kouga Local Municipality to advance sustainable, inclusive and resilient development through more integrated planning and decision-making. The framework strengthens alignment between municipal priorities, national objectives and the global Sustainable Development Goals while improving policy coherence, performance monitoring and accountability.

Through stronger partnerships, evidence-based planning and measurable indicators, the municipality will be better positioned to improve service delivery, respond to future challenges and make meaningful contributions toward long-term sustainable development outcomes.

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- Civil and Water Department
- Fire and Disaster Risk Management
- Environmental Management
- Electromechanical
- Finance
- Housing Development
- Human Resource Department
- Information Systems and Technology
- Parks and amenities
- Risk Department
- Supply Chain Management
- Planning and Design
- Waste Services
- Legal

DISCLAIMER

Although all efforts have been made and due care taken to ensure the accuracy in the assembly, analysis and compilation of data and information in this report, KLM is unable to guarantee complete accuracy.

The report does not contain a complete list of programmes, projects and activities previously or currently implemented by KLM. For the purposes of this document, selected strategic documents were used and a random selection of programmes, projects and activities were includ