



SITEKI TOWN COUNCIL

SITEKI VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

REPORT
2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Siteki Town Council appreciates that she has made the decision to be with other Eswatini Municipality's in the mission to be part of the Local Governments to prepare a Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary Local Review Report (SGDs VLR). The Municipality volunteered to participate in the SDGs VLR along other Eswatini Municipalities to show the town's commitment to attaining the goals while contributing to improve the standard of living for the people in Siteki and in Eswatini at large.

Siteki Town Council appreciates the leadership commitment by the Ministry of Housing and Urban development in collaborating with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development in the process of engaging all Local Governments to develop the Voluntary Local Review Report as part of monitoring the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda encourages Members States to 'conduct regular and inclusive review of progress at the national and sub national levels, which are country-led and country-driven-(paragraph 9)'.

The Municipality recognizes the participation of various stakeholders in business, private government, NGOs sectors who were willing to forge a working relationship and partnership that is required to bring about change in the long run. The efforts by the sectors named above enabled the Municipality to gather relevant information that gives a picture of the achievements and challenges

regarding the implementation of the SDGs in Siteki Town.

In summary the report that is being prepared will give a picture of the town's achievements and challenges regarding incorporation of the SDGs in implementation of the town's programs. This will show the importance of aligning the town's development agenda with that of the national government.

Siteki Town Council's development plans are clearly stated in the Five-Year Integrated Development Plan for the 2025-2025

SITEKI TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC CENTRE



CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 where all Member States gathered and signed as a vow to improving the world standard of living through the implementation of SDGs. The SDGs replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were a global effort in 2000 to tackle extreme poverty, hunger and preventing deadly diseases through universally agreed objectives. While the SDGs are not legally mandatory, all countries are expected to accept ownership and develop national frameworks that will encompass strategies that will foster economic growth and ensure that social requirements are met such as health, education, social protection, employment, and address climate change and ensure environmental protection.

Siteki Town Profile

Siteki is a declared urban area that was upgraded from being a Town Board to being a Town Council on the 5th of March 1993 in terms of Section 3 the Urban Government Act of 1969. The town is located approximately 61 kilometres to the east of Manzini, 30 kilometres to the south east of the King Mswati III International airport and approximately 27 kilometres south west of the Mhlumeni border post that leads to Mozambique. Siteki is located to the central eastern part of the Lubombo Plateau, overlooking the Lowveld. The town's centre is located close to the junction of the MR7 and D12 national roads, the MR 7 being the road that links Siteki to Manzini and the D12 linking Siteki to Mambane.

The town's original colonial name was Stegi which was only changed to Siteki shortly after independence. Siteki which means "place of marriage" is known as a place of marriage after King Mbandzeni declared and allowed his troops to get married there. Siteki has however been through many changes which include it changing from an agriculturally oriented town to a more economically vibrant town offering various goods and services through private and public entities.

According to the Lubombo Regional Development Plan (LRPD), Siteki is the administrative headquarters of the Lubombo region, meaning it is the capital town of the Lubombo region. This means Siteki is expected to have higher order uses and functions. The LRDP also proposed for Siteki's status as the administrative capital of Lubombo region to be reinforced. The LRDP called for the Town to continue accommodating all higher order administrative and social/community services and functions. As stated by the LRDP these functions include the regional emergency services, the main hospital in the region and the administrative headquarters for the region pertaining to all social facilities.

The Siteki urban area covers approximately 765.9 hectares, this is nearly the same area as the Pigg's Peak urban area which measures approximately 856 hectares and Mankayane measuring approximately 814 hectares. Siteki is also the second smallest urban area in Eswatini, only bigger than Vuvulane urban area which only covers approximately 120 hectares.

Current Organizational Composition

The Siteki Town Council fully acts in its administrative capacity as the Local Authority. It is to a large extent dependent on the administrative and technical support of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD).

In terms of governance, Council’s operations are guided by the following structures and practices.

- 1. Council or Board
- 2. Finance Committee
- 3. Management
- 4. Sports and Wellness Committees
- 5. Tender board
- 6. Tender Evaluation Committees
- 7. Stakeholder Consultations.

It must be noted that the responsibilities of these structures are clearly defined in the Urban Government Act, 1969 in order to ensure balance of power even though others are not defined in laws governing operations of the Municipality.

Implementation of policies established by the Council are carried out by the Executive, headed by the Town Clerk (Chief Executive Officer) while the Town Planning Scheme is implemented by the Engineering department. The Town Clerk is the Chief Executive Officer of the organization and handles all the management aspects and operational decisions of the Board. The Town Clerk has the responsibility to ensure operational and statutory functionality of the Board through the departments, currently: Treasury, Engineering and Community and Social Development.

Siteki Population

As of 2017, the population in Siteki was 3 663, this is a decline of 6.2% when compared to the population in Siteki in 2007 which was 3 906. The reason for a decline in the population could be from out-migration from the Lubombo region or Siteki to other urban, peri urban or other rural areas. The other influences that could play a role in the decrease of the population could be the decline of births rates and increase in number of mortality rates.

As stated previously the population in Siteki stood at 3 663 in 2017, of these 1 780 were males (representing 48.6% of the total population) and females stood at 1883; that indicated females were greater than males by 103 females representing a total percentage of 51.4% of people in Siteki.

Table 1 Siteki Population by Sex 2017

Sex	Population	Percentage of Total Population
Male	1780	48.6%
Female	1883	51.4%
Total	3663	100

Extracted from Siteki Town Planning Scheme 2022-2027

Siteki Population by Age and Sex 2017

The population in Siteki is evidently bottom heavy as the highest number of people were of a younger age (over 300 people from the 0-4 range to the 30-34 range), the highest being the range of 25-29-year-old males and females with a total of 380 people. Females of an older age from 60-80+ are more than males except for the 75-79 range where the same number of males and females were recorded. The information is illustrated in the table below.

Siteki Population by Age and Sex 2017			
Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4	158	174	332
5-9	174	191	365
10-14	165	150	315
15-19	161	160	321
20-24	138	211	349
25-29	180	200	380
30-34	180	178	358
35-39	134	163	297
40-44	125	99	224
45-49	104	73	177
50-54	75	59	134
55-59	57	49	106
60-64	34	37	71
65-69	19	24	43
70-74	9	24	33
75-79	9	9	18
80+	5	19	24

Siteki Working Age Population by Age Group and Sex

The working age population consists of all individuals between the ages of 15 to 64. These individuals are considered able and likely to work. This working age population represents the number of potential workers in a certain area, however it does not take into account the employed or those seeking employment. As seen in table below, the total working age population in Siteki is 2 417, representing about 66% of the total population of the Siteki urban area. The working age population in Siteki is most prevalent in the ages of 25-34 with close to 737 people, 359 being males and 378 being females respectively.

Siteki Working Age Population by Age Group and Sex

	Male	Female	Total
Working age	1 188	1 229	2 417
Population			
Age group			
15-24	25.2	30.2	27.7
25-34	30.3	30.8	30.5

35-44	21.8	21.3	21.6
45-54	15.1	10.7	12.9
55-64	7.6	7	7.3
Total	100	100	100

Poverty levels in Siteki 2010

The Siteki urban and peri urban area population in 2010 stood at 7 263 (according to the 2010 SWAZILAND POVERTY and MDG MAPS: Region, Tinkhundla and Major Area, Central Statistical Office). This population had a number of 4 203 poor individuals that represented 57.9 % of the overall population. Poor individuals are identified and affected by a number of factors which include stalled economic growth, severe drought, unequal distribution of wealth, high unemployment and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

AREA	POPULATION	NUMBER OF POOR INDIVIDUALS	PERCENTAGE OF POOR INDIVIDUALS
SITEKI URBAN AND PERI URBAN AREA	7 263	4 203	57.9

Source: 2010 SWAZILAND POVERTY and MDG MAPS: Region, Tinkhundla and Major Area, Central Statistical Office

Purpose and Scope of Voluntary Local Review

The purpose of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is to monitor Siteki Town Council's strides in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, gain insights into the achievements and challenges experienced by the town in the implementation of the SDGs.

The VLR is an evaluation of the SDG implementation in a specific local context in which local authorities identify their priorities. Siteki Town Council made the decision to partake in the review process to monitor implementation of the SDG Goals in her gazetted mandate which includes the following core functions, namely: supply, maintenance and extension of local authority services; revenue collection and administration; and Control of development according to prescribed procedures. These are functions that support successful implementation of specific town programs targeted to improving the lives of Siteki dwellers.

The ambitious Agenda includes 17 goals and 169 targets that are integrated to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development namely; economic, social and environmental. Cognizance must be taken that although all the 17 goals are similarly significant, Siteki Town Council has decided to concentrate on monitoring Goals 3,5,8, 14 and 17 for the purposes of the review.

CHAPTER TWO: VLR METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS

Methodology

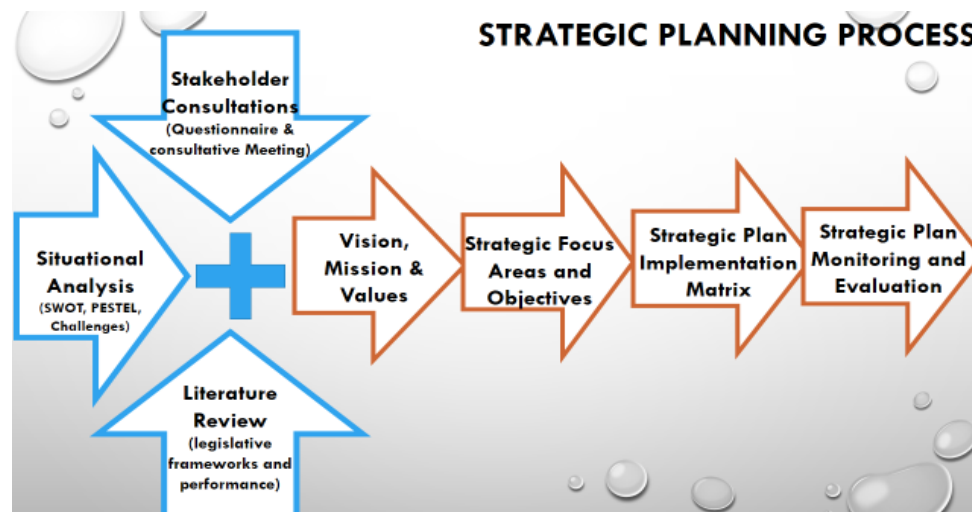
Siteki Town Council in the year 2024 began the process of developing a new Five year- Integrated Development Plan for a period starting 2024- 2029. This plan provides a primary basis for all plans and projects of the Siteki Town Council and annual budgets that will be drawn up by Siteki Town Council during the next 5 years to the 2028/2029 financial year. The VLR process in Siteki Town started from the drive by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and Planning to capacitate towns on the SDGs VLR. The Municipality conducted a Management Meeting where by all departments were in attendance, the Town Clerk's Office

called for all departments to be involved in the VLR program and further engaged all departments to decide on the SDGs to monitor and report on. The departments which were said to spearhead the process were: Administration, Treasury, Engineering and Community and Social development. The host department was the Community and Social Development supported by Engineering.

Council Approval

Approval of Council for participation in the VLR was sought and it was part of the resolutions of the Council Ordinary meeting held at Siteki Town Council Board room.

Siteki Town Council's Integrated Development Plan Process



Key Focus Areas for Siteki IDP 2024-2029

In consideration of the previous council plans, the achievements, challenges and after vigorous consultations with internal and external stakeholders, Siteki Town has shifted her focus to the following areas highlighted in the table below for the purposes of aligning to the vision, mission and goal of the town.

Key Focus Areas for IDP 2024-2029
1. Resource Mobilization and Financial Sustainability
2. Local Economic Development
3. Town Planning and Infrastructure
4. Environment and Waste Management
5. Enterprise-Wide Risks and Disaster Risk Management
6. Crime Prevention and Security
7. Service Delivery
8. Institutional Capacity Building and Operational Efficiency

Taken from STC IDP 2024-2029

Stakeholder Engagement

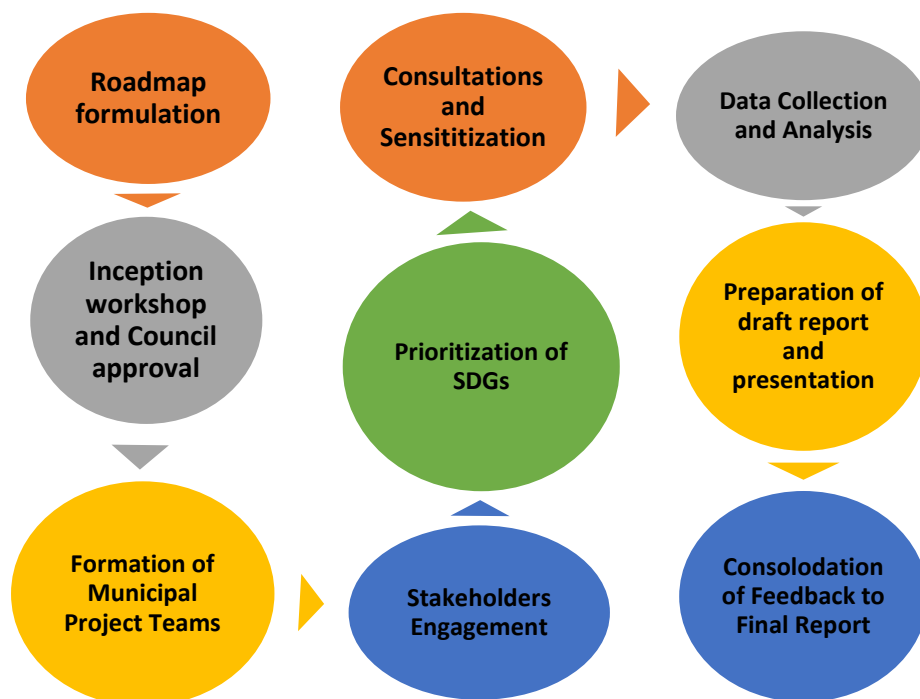
Engagements started with internal stakeholders at Council level and moved to involve multisector stakeholders included in the table below. Various engagements were held to collect valid data with the help of the stakeholders through desks reviews, one on one interviews and consultation of legal and other documents. Council engages stakeholder for successful implementation of programs. In the VLR process the following list of stakeholders were invited to participate.

List of Siteki Stakeholders Engaged in VLR

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED
Siteki Town Council
Siteki Wards Committees
Ministry of Economic Planning
Ministry of Commerce and International Trade
Central statistics Office
COSPE
AMICAALL
Internal Organization for Migration
Fire and Emergency Services
Ministry of Works and Transport
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education
NERCHA
Good Shepherd Hospital
Eswatini Umbutfo defense Force
Royal Eswarini Police Service
Georgetown University
Eswatini water services Corporation
Eswatini Electricity Company

Siteki Roadmap for VLR Process

The Siteki Roadmap for VLR started with preparations for Voluntary Local Review process that included an inception meeting for Management to form project teams as well as acquiring Council approval. Stakeholder consultations were also conducted and were fruitful in terms of enabling data collection processes.



Data Collection

Data was collected through the following activities:

- **Data capturing workshop/ VLR**

The Data Capturing Workshop was held at Siteki Hotel on the 13th February 2025, the Municipality send invites through formal correspondence to various internal and external stakeholders. In attendance were Council representatives, Ward representatives, Siteki Town Council Management, Ministry of Economic Planning, Ministry of Commerce and International Trade, Ministry of Works and transport, Lubombo Health Office, Government agencies, International Agencies, Business sector and Non-Governmental Organization Sector.

- **One on One Engagements and sensitizations:** One on one sensitization Meetings were held with different stakeholders for data collection purposes. This

helped in acquiring additional data that was missing during the data capturing workshop and to further have discussions for the benefit of the VLR process.

- **Consultation of legal and other vital documents:** There are a number of documents that were consulted to acquire valid data such as the following:
 - Urban Government Act of 1969;
 - Gazette for confirming Siteki Town from a Town Board to a Town Council in 1993
 - Town Planning scheme;
 - Reports of IDP Review and implementation during the past 5 years;
 - Local Economic Development Strategy;
 - Eswatini National Development Plan for 2023/24- 2027/28
 - 2010 SWAZILAND POVERTY and MDG MAPS: Region, Tinkhundla and Major Area, Central Statistical Office
 - State of the Environment Report (SOE) 2014

CHAPTER 3: PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Siteki Town Council has decided to concentrate on monitoring Goals 3, 5,8,14 and 17 for the purposes of this review however programs are being currently implemented as being guided by the current Siteki Integrated Development Plan 2024-2029.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3 (SDG 3)

Sustainable Development Goal 3 seeks to ensure health and well-being for people of all ages, races and backgrounds including a bold commitment to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases by 2030. It also aims to achieve universal health coverage, and provide access to safe and effective medicines and vaccines for all. Good Health & Well-Being is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations in 2015. It aims to ensure healthy lives and promotes well-being for all at all ages.

Findings in Goal 3 (SDG 3)

- Siteki has one main referral hospital which is the Lubombo Referral Hospital, one catholic hospital known as Good Shepherd Hospital, two clinics under Public Health Unit and one Nazarene clinic known as Siteki Nazarene clinic. These clinics are accessible to Siteki dwellers, which makes access to health services easy for the people. 2
- Partnership existing in Siteki is with Georgetown University (GU) an NGO and a main partner in Siteki health projects. GU helps in HIV prevention and treatment, transport, human resources in the various health facilities in Siteki. It supports Good Shepard Hospital, Public Health Unit and Siteki Nazarene. The Siteki AMICAALL HIV Testing and Counseling Centre, under the municipality, helps in the provision of HIV Testing and counselling services. Others NGOs working within the boundaries of the town are Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross, World Vision, NERCHA, Chai, SWAGGA. There is the Fire and Emergency Services as well as Emergency Response Service (ERS).
- There are three facilities that provide dental services namely Good Shepherd and Lubombo Referral Hospital and Public Health Unit.
- There 3 eye clinics namely: Grace Eye Vision, Good Shepherd and Lubomnbo Referral Hospital.
- Siteki has 6 pharmacies located in the town.

Challenges

- ❖ The town is faced with challenge of retaining human resources in the health sector. Health workers are migrating to overseas seeking greener pastures.
- ❖ Drug shortages- there is a shortage of drugs and medicines in the hospitals and clinics.
- ❖ Referral and linkages incapacities in the health facilities.

Recommendations

1. There is a need to return back to execute the core mandate of the Ministry of Health
2. Improve efficiency in the implementation of the budget so that the system is able take up some initiatives that are being driven.



Figure 1 Lubombo Referral Hospital (Siteki's Main Hospital)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5 (SDG 5)

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) aims to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". This goal is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations (UN) to focus on eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, ensuring their full and effective participation in all spheres of life, and promoting their empowerment. SDG 5 is considered one of the most challenging goals to achieve by the 2030 deadline, with significant progress needed to address persistent gender inequalities. While progress has been made in some areas, such as increasing female education and participation in the workforce, significant gaps remain in areas like political representation, economic empowerment, and the elimination of violence against women. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated gender inequalities, with women and girls disproportionately affected by job losses, domestic violence, and other negative consequences. To achieve SDG 5, it is essential to address the root causes of gender inequality, such as discriminatory attitudes and practices, and

to invest in policies and programs that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Findings

- Siteki Town Council has embarked on a journey to empower women and youth in a project called Yes project funded by EU through COSPE. This project focusses on empowering women and youth through provision of finance and expertise on running of business either for individuals or for groups.
- The Swaziland Action Against Abuse (SWAGGA) is currently providing support on handling gender based violence cases and mobilizing people to be aware and take action to prevent and mitigate cases.
- In Siteki there is a Children's court that focuses on addressing cases involving children in town.
- There is a one stop shop which provides victims of rape with all services required.
- There is annual sensitizations programmes aimed at reducing gender based violence in town organized by different partners including the Municipality, Royal Eswatini Police Service and others.
- There are programmes being implemented by AMICAALL and Save the Children that target Key populations/ LGBTQI and works with Female sex workers and Males having sex with males.
- There is an office in the Royal Eswatini Police that specializes in attending to cases of Gender-Based Violence as guided by the Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence act 2002.

Challenges

- Reported cases of Gender Based Violence need to be handled professionally by the responsible Offices.
- With regards to the representation of women in leadership positions there is a challenge in getting women to participate in the decision making positions. Advocacy must be started in time to advocate for women to stand for elections.
- These challenges have to do with adequacy of resources to campaign for political positions

Recommendations

- In order to increase the participation of women in leadership positions, there is need to improve in sensitization. It should be on-going and not done on the eve of the elections as is the norm.
- There is a need to build the capacity amongst the women on leadership so that they get into the positions by merit.
- There needs to be an affirmative action in the recruitment process.
- There is a need to recruit staff in the courts and magistrate offices to deal with cases reported.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8 (SDG 8)

Goal 8 (SDG 8) focuses on "Decent Work and Economic Growth." It aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. This includes creating decent work opportunities for everyone, ensuring fair incomes, workplace security, social protection, and opportunities for personal development. Eswatini has recognized that creating decent jobs and fostering economic resilience are key levers for overall national development. In its SDG Recovery and Acceleration Plan, the country has identified SDG 8 (and especially target 8.5, which stresses the creation of full employment and decent work with equal pay) as one of the critical priorities for the coming years.

This strategic emphasis is built on the understanding that job creation and economic diversification are not just ends in themselves—but also catalysts for progress in health, education, and social protection. In fact, Eswatini's approach is designed to generate positive spill-over effects across various sectors in its broader Agenda 2030 framework. The Lubombo region, the region where Siteki is located, like much of Eswatini, faces a significant challenge in youth unemployment. In Siteki, targeted programs such as the youth empowerment programme and active labour market programme are being tailored to local needs. These initiatives provide training, mentorship, and internship opportunities to young people, thus equipping them with the skills necessary to thrive. Such plans are encompassed in the Siteki Five-year Integrated Development Plan 2025-2029.

Findings

- ❖ Existence of Siteki Market that accommodates vendors and other business initiatives in Siteki.
- ❖ The municipality has completed construction of handicraft stall and cooking stalls at the Siteki bus rank to support local entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Establishment of Lubombo Mall and Mvulane Complex to house businesses that will continue to provide employment opportunities to the youth and people.
- ❖ Establishment of Espino (eatery/restaurants) which has created jobs in the last 12 months.
- ❖ AMICAALL empowerment group that helps women and youth to provide the various skills (soap and Vaseline making, cooking etc. This is supported by the International Organization of Migration in their program that seeks to empower key populations.

Gwacatela project- Siteki town has a programme to ensure provision of land or working space for youth to be actively involved in improving the economy.

Challenges

- I. Limited resources to extend the Market to accommodate the high demand of trading space.

- II. Limited capital for programmes under the AMICAALL program. Beneficiaries are provided with trainings and working tools however, they face a challenge with capital to start the businesses.
- III. Mushrooming of businesses without knowledge of relevant authorities due to working in silos. This is a matter between the Municipality and its partners- The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade.
- IV. Lack of diversification in the businesses established in the town causing market saturated/ oversupply of one product /service
- V. Influx of Asian businesses who do not want to adhere to town by-laws
- VI. Some licenses owned by Emaswati operated by foreigners. Swazis lack support in terms of access to finance to operate businesses.

Recommendations

- ❖ There is a need for government to increase the subvention to the towns to ensure that the town is able to sustain programmes;
- ❖ There is need to strengthen the tourism industry
- ❖ Roll-out mindset projects for the unemployed citizens to start business
- ❖ Empower the youth and men and women-with skills (entrepreneurship) to start business
- ❖ Promote Swazi owned businesses. Review the businesses that are preserved for Emaswati only.
- ❖ There is need to strengthen coordination in departments that support the establishment of businesses to towns
- ❖ Need to review fines for non- compliance of businesses and suspension of permits for specified period.
- ❖ Establishment of additional industrial firms to employ Siteki people.



Figure 2 Espinho Restaurant and Bar



Figure 4 & 5 Handicraft and cooking stalls at Siteki Bus Rank area

GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Sustainable Development Goal 14 addresses the imperative need to protect our oceans and ensure their long-term health and productivity. It highlights the crucial role oceans play in upholding life on Earth thus providing livelihoods for people, and regulating the planet's climate. Particularly, the targets under SDG 14 put emphasis on pollution reduction, conserving marine ecosystems, promoting sustainable fishing, and addressing issues like ocean acidification and overfishing. It's a call to action for everyone—governments, organizations, and individuals alike—to take responsibility and act toward a sustainable future.

According to the State of Environment Report 2014, access to improved water sources national efforts to address the provision of water and sanitation to communities have been successful with ongoing activities to meet the MDG goals on water and sanitation. According to the MDG Progress Report (GOS-MEPD, 2010) more than two-thirds of households have access to improved water sources and three in four households are within 15 minutes of their drinking water supply. About 73% of urban households have water piped into their dwellings or yards, while about 23% of rural households have direct piped water. Rural households also rely on public taps, surface water and dug protected wells for their drinking water. Access to safe drinking water in rural areas has been improving since 1997 from 40% to 54% in 2007 and 59% in 2009.

Marine conservation and land activities are intensely interconnected because much of the pollution and damage to marine ecosystems originates from land-based sources. Here's how they are linked:

1. **Pollution Runoff:** Chemicals from agriculture (like fertilizers and pesticides), untreated sewage, and industrial waste often flow into water resources and eventually reach the oceans. This can lead to problems like algal blooms, which deplete oxygen in the water and harm marine life.
2. **Plastic Waste:** A significant portion of plastic pollution in the oceans comes from improper waste management on land. Plastic debris can harm marine animals and ecosystems.
3. **Deforestation and Soil Erosion:** When forests are cleared, soil erosion increases. Sediments carried by rivers can smother coral reefs and other marine habitats, disrupting ecosystems.
4. **Climate Change:** Land-based activities, such as burning fossil fuels, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. This leads to ocean warming, acidification, and rising sea levels, all of which threaten marine life.
5. **Urbanization and Coastal Development:** Expanding cities and infrastructure near coastlines can destroy critical habitats like mangroves and wetlands, which are essential for marine biodiversity. Siteki has wetlands in close proximity to Mabhodweni Dam, which together with the dam are habitats for biodiversity.

Findings in Goal 14

- Mabodweni dam is water resource located in Siteki along MR7 road to Mhlumeni Border. The dam was protected with fencing by Eswatini Government during the construction of the Lubombo Referral Hospital. Fencing of the area provided protection from over exploitation because open access to natural resources can result in overharvesting or unsustainable use, which may exhaust resources and harm ecosystems. Unfenced areas may face encroachment from agriculture, urbanization, or infrastructure development, disrupting ecosystems.

- The town has wetlands located close to Mabhodeneni and also in Ward 3, Flametree Park. These wetlands need to be protected.
- Siteki is surrounded by Mahhuku, Mazimyame and Muti muti which are all protection worthy water resources.
- Activities in the water resources are regulated by Siteki Town Council through issuance of permits e.g. Fishing, collection of fishing baits.
- In Siteki, the Department of Water Affairs has identified a total of eight boreholes that they are aware of (See attached Borehole Map). There may be more boreholes in the urban area that were installed without their knowledge. A study has not been conducted to ascertain the number of boreholes in the urban space.

Challenges

Water pollution: According to the Town Planning Scheme 2022-2029 Water pollution in the Siteki urban area was noted near the dumpsite, the outflow from the dumpsite affects the nearby Gongolweni stream with contaminants. The most dangerous form of seepage from dumpsites and landfills is direct leachate which is a liquid that commonly contains heavy metals, such as lead, and volatile organic compound. A proper study into the effects of this water pollution on animal and plant life has not been carried out to determine its magnitude.

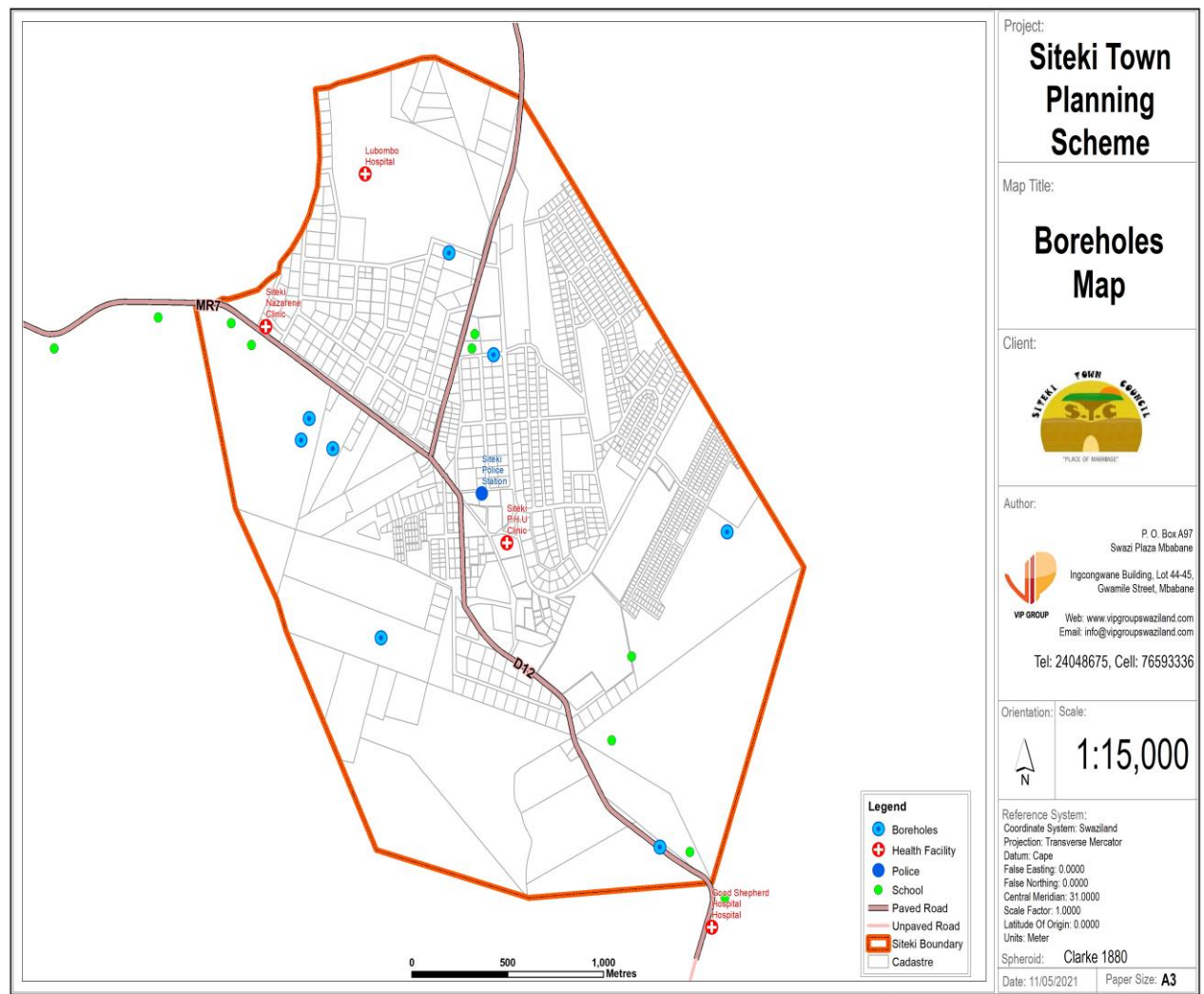
- **Low Precipitation:** Most streams in Siteki are seasonal because of the relatively low rainfall in the area.

- **Small catchment areas:** within the town mean surface water in the area is insufficient except for two dams being Mabhodweni Dam and Nazarene Dam.



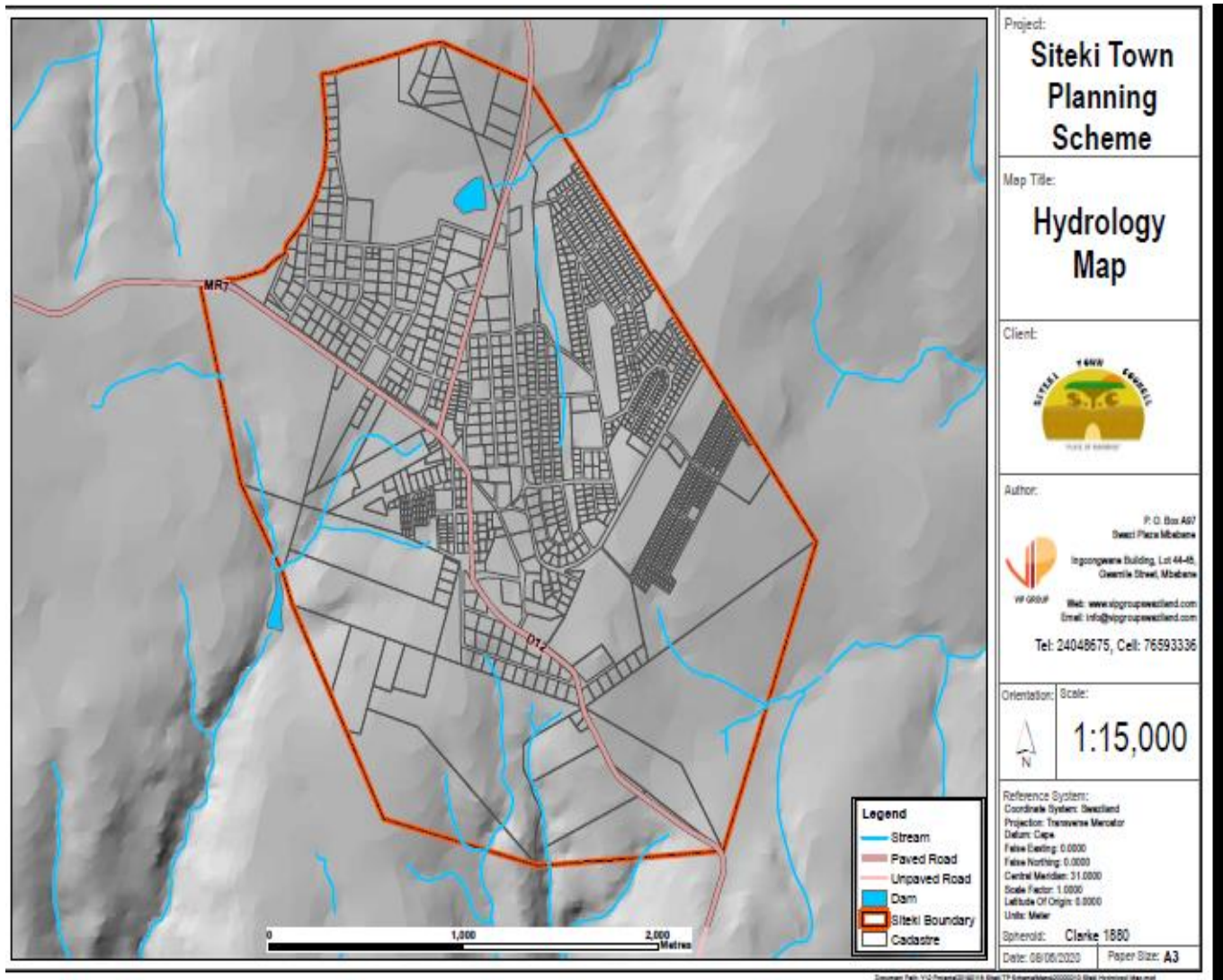
Figure 3 Forbes Mabhodweni Dam

Siteki Urban Area Borehole Map



Extracted from Town Planning Scheme 2022-29

Siteki Urban Area Hydrology Map



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Often called "Partnerships for the Goals," aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. This means building stronger collaborations among various sectors, industries, and countries to achieve all the other 16 SDGs. The goal emphasizes the importance of financial resources, technology, and equitable trade, particularly for developing countries.

Eswatini is actively working toward Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17), which focuses on global partnerships for sustainable development. The country has integrated SDG 17 into its National Development Strategy and National Development Plan, aligning it with Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Siteki is implementing SDG 17 through the following initiatives:

- Strong partnerships: The Municipality collaborates with businesses, civil society, and academic institutions to ensure inclusivity in development efforts.
- Resource mobilization: Siteki is committed to securing both public and private funding to support sustainable development. There is currently funding from EU through COSPE for a project that focusses on empowering women and youth.
- Twinning with other towns: The municipality benefits from international and local cooperation in knowledge-sharing and innovation. There are Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Manhica Municipality (Mozambique) and Vuvulane Town Board (Eswatini)

CHAPTER FOUR: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE FOCUS

After finalization of the VLR, Siteki Town Council deems it necessary to put emphasis on the following actions that need to be incorporated into the annual budget:

Action	Output
• Raising awareness on the SDGs in the town by involving all stakeholders.	• Updated Mapping of stakeholders • Stakeholder sensitizations
• Regular engagements with internal stakeholders	• Raised awareness for internal stakeholders such as Council Members, Management and Staff.
• Regular engagement with external stakeholders	• Increased number of engagements such as meetings, workshops, desk reviews etc.
• Foster cooperation with research and academic institutions	• Valid data.
• Financing for SDGs	• Increased budgets for implementation of programs as guided by the SDGs and for the Siteki VLR process.

References

- a) Urban Government Act of 1969;
- b) Gazette for confirming Siteki Town from a Town Board to a Town Council in 1993;
- c) Town Planning scheme;
- d) Reports of IDP Review and implementation during the past 5 years;
- e) Local Economic Development Strategy;
- f) Eswatini National Development Plan for 2023/24- 2027/28
- g) 2010 SWAZILAND POVERTY and MDG MAPS: Region, Tinkhundla and Major Area, Central Statistical Office

h) State of the Environment Report (SOE) 2014