



## Fact Sheet for the Project 'Sustainable Healthcare Waste Management in Gauteng'

<b>START &amp; END OF PROJECT</b>	Project started May 2001 and is schedule to be completed by end of March 2004.
<b>ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED</b>	<p>The project is implemented by Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment &amp; Land Affairs (DACEL) via a government-to-government agreement between Department of Environment and Tourism and DANIDA of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>There is a comprehensive Project Steering Committee with representation from DACEL, DEAT, DWAF, Gauteng Health, Public Works, Green NGOs, Professional NGOs and Organised Labour.</p> <p>The DACEL Project Director is Deputy Director Dee Fischer, Integrated Waste Management</p>
<b>CONSULTANTS</b>	The Danish Consulting Company RAMBØLL via the Chief Technical Advisor Torben Kristiansen is responsible for the day-to-day project implementation and is supported by a group of 8 South African consultants and 4 Danish Consultants on an ad hoc basis.
<b>KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS AND DELIVERABLES PRODUCED</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Gauteng Policy for healthcare waste management was produced and adopted by the Gauteng Legislature November 2001 which has set the principles for all further work</li> <li>2. A detailed environmental and financial feasibility study for various provincial healthcare waste management scenarios was completed in 2001 which has informed the Pilot Projects that are running at one hospital and one clinic as well as have informed the requirements that are included in the Provincial Regulations that are being drafted</li> <li>3. Approx. R 700,000 has been used for developing and implementing safer and more environmentally friendly containerisation and transportation systems which have been implemented at the pilot projects at Leratong Hospital and Itireleng Clinic. These pilot projects are full-scale pilot where the entire healthcare waste management system has been re-engineered with considerable capacity building and training efforts.</li> <li>4. A detailed healthcare waste management guideline for Gauteng has been developed and will be finalised with the experience gained in the pilots</li> <li>5. For the first time in Southern Africa a comprehensive healthcare waste characterisation and generation study has been conducted which has provided valuable information about the level of segregation, scope for cost savings and improvement of occupational safety. This has further been used to monitor the effect of the pilot projects</li> <li>6. In close cooperation with the Department of Health and in complete consultation with all relevant stakeholders detailed and much improved Healthcare Waste Tender Specifications have been developed and approved by the Department of Health for approx. 30 hospitals and 140 clinics throughout Gauteng.</li> <li>7. An international healthcare waste conference is being held at Sandton convention centre 25-27 August 2003 with the participation of approx 200 delegates from more than 13 countries predominantly from the African</li> </ol>



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region.

8. A project web-site is maintained and updated at [www.csir.co.za/ciwm/hcrw](http://www.csir.co.za/ciwm/hcrw) that has had over 300 hits so far. The web-sites include more than 50 downloadable documents, pictures and video to ensure that the worldwide community has immediate access to project outputs.
9. A Capacity Building and Awareness Programme, numerous posters and a 5 day training course for Healthcare Waste Officers has been developed with Wits Technikon with SETA approval allowing participants to get SETA rebates for participation in the course
10. Health care waste Information System that is web-based for online reporting of healthcare waste amounts that allows the public to draw reports on waste amounts. See <http://www.dacel.gpg.gov.za/wis/>

### KEY TANGIBLE RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR

1. Significant and remarkable improvement of the management of healthcare waste at the pilot projects (Leratong Hospital and Itireleng Clinic) has been achieved:
  - Puncture and leak resistant containers have been introduced to engineer out the risk of needle stick injuries and other exposure to pathogens to general workers and waste service providers
  - The level of mis-segregation has been significantly reduced: i) Misplaced general waste in the medical waste reduced from 25% to only 7% which is a remarkable achievement on par with best international practise and results in considerable cost savings, ii) misplaced medical waste in the stream arriving at communal landfill has been halved reducing the risk of infecting landfill reclaimers
  - A remarkable improvement of general workers working conditions has been achieved which has received commendation and support from NEHAWU (Union for general workers in healthcare facilities). Focal group interview and the Pilot Project Monitoring Programme shows that the new system enjoys the workers support widely.
  - Because of improved segregation and more cost efficient containerisation it is documented that it is cheaper to continue with the pilot activities than to revert back to the pre-intervention system
2. Two pieces of Provincial legislation has been produced in full public consultation that will be promulgated October this year and set new and groundbreaking requirements that will transform the entire healthcare waste management industry in Gauteng and set standards that may inspire the rest of South Africa
3. New and groundbreaking healthcare waste Tender Specifications has been developed in close consultation with health care workers, facilities and the head office of Health.
4. The International healthcare waste Conference 25-27 August will allow approx. 200 delegates from 13 countries access to the wealth of information generated by the project including visits to the pilot project and new advanced treatment plants that comply with the coming regulatory requirements in Gauteng.
5. The Project has significantly contributed to the writing of the new SABS Code 0248 on Management of Health Care Waste. This code is used not only in South Africa but also as a legal requirement or guideline in most



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SADC countries and beyond.

6. The Tender Requirements will implement the improved waste management system from the pilot Projects as well as implement the intent of the new Gauteng Regulations in 30 hospitals and 140 clinics and introduce change and upliftment in the health care waste service industry and result in better protection of the approx. 30,000 health workers employed by the Provincial Department of health and the service providers as well as result in immediate reduced environmental impact, and especially reduce the air pollution to approx. one third compared to the current poor incinerators

**KEY TANGIBLE  
RESULTS IN  
PROGRESS**

1. Guidelines for the Local Government for the implementation of systems for managing health care risk waste produced by small scale generators such as GPs in the communities
2. A tender roll-out support programme that will assist individual institutions in implementing the new tender requirements as well as an efficient reporting and monitoring system
3. Additional capacity building and training support to HCW Officers, Central health care waste specialist and the Health Care Waste Forum to be formed by the Department of Health
4. A final Integrated Healthcare Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan for Gauteng
5. Expansion of the Waste Information System to include other types of waste, especially domestic waste and hazardous waste delivered to landfills as included in the Regulations to be promulgated.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

<i>Project Director:</i>	Deputy Director Dee Fischer 011 3551956, <a href="mailto:deef@gpg.gov.za">deef@gpg.gov.za</a>
<i>Chief Technical Advisor:</i>	Torben Kristiansen 082 3323720 <a href="mailto:tok@ramboll.dk">tok@ramboll.dk</a>
<i>Project Secretary</i>	Sharmaine Ramathar 011 3551673 <a href="mailto:sharmainer@gpg.gov.za">sharmainer@gpg.gov.za</a>
<i>Website:</i>	<a href="http://www.csir.co.za/ciwm/hcrw">www.csir.co.za/ciwm/hcrw</a>
<i>Fax:</i>	011 644 9339
<i>Conference website:</i>	<a href="http://www.sbs.co.za/hcwm2003">www.sbs.co.za/hcwm2003</a>

**ACCESS TO  
PROJECT OUTPUTS**

The Project aims at making all project outputs in the form of documents, posters, pictures, video etc. available for download via the internet via the project website at [www.csir.co.za/ciwm/hcrw](http://www.csir.co.za/ciwm/hcrw) . Please visit the site. We have had more than 300 visitors so far.

If you do not have access to the internet please contact us as indicated above.