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## **Boschdraai Primary Environmental Policy Revision History**

Date of this revision: [2025 01 25]

Date of next revision: [2026 01 22],

## Declaration of Commitment and Vision

Boschdraai Primary School recognizes its profound responsibility to the natural environment and the local community. We believe that a sustainable, biodiverse, and thriving school environment is essential for the well-being and education of our learners.

### Our Vision:

To transform Boschdraai Primary School into a recognized hub of local biodiversity, where every learner, staff member, and parent actively participates in protecting and enhancing the natural environment, developing a deep respect for all life, and contributing to the wider Biodiversity Network of our region.

### Our Mission:

We commit to developing a culture within our school community that recognizes the shared responsibility to manage our resources responsibly, integrate environmental education into the curriculum, and actively enhance the ecological richness of our school grounds and surrounding areas.

### 1. How We Will Achieve Our Vision (The How)

To achieve our vision, Boschdraai Primary will strive to embed sustainability principles into management, teaching, and participation.

#### 1.1 Resource Management

Area	Commitment
Waste	Implement a comprehensive three-bin system (Recycle, Compost, Landfill) across the school, with a focus on reducing food waste and single-use plastics.
Water	Identify opportunities for rainwater harvesting to irrigate our indigenous gardens and biodiversity plots.
Energy	Monitor and manage electricity use, prioritizing low-energy lighting and turning off all devices when not in use to

	reduce our carbon footprint.
<b>Procurement</b>	Prioritize the purchase of environmentally friendly, locally sourced, and sustainable products, especially for garden materials (e.g., indigenous plants, compost).

## 1.2 Management of School Grounds and the Surrounding Environment

We will actively manage the school grounds to increase local habitat and ecological value.

### Biodiversity Focus:

- **Establishment:** Designate specific areas for indigenous planting, creating distinct habitats such as a butterfly garden, a bird-friendly hedge, and a small wetland feature (if feasible).
- **Maintenance:** Employ organic gardening practices, avoiding chemical pesticides and herbicides that harm local insect populations and soil health.
- **Connection:** Work with local environmental groups to understand and contribute to the regional Biodiversity Network, potentially by creating a green corridor on school boundaries.

## 1.3 Curriculum and Teaching

Environmental education will be integrated across all subjects, not just in science.

- **Learning in Nature:** Utilize the school's natural areas and biodiversity plots as outdoor classrooms for lessons in mathematics (measuring plots), language (nature writing), and art (sketching flora and fauna).
- **Biodiversity Projects:** Implement yearly projects that involve learners in species identification, monitoring local wildlife populations (e.g., insects, birds), and tracking the growth of planted indigenous species.

## 1.4 Participation and Learning

We believe in shared responsibility, ensuring all stakeholders are involved in the policy's success.

Group	Role in the Biodiversity Network Policy
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<b>Learners</b>	Active participation in the Eco-Club, maintenance of garden beds, leading biodiversity audits, and educating peers on environmental responsibility.
<b>All Staff</b>	Integrating environmental themes into lesson plans, conserving resources within classrooms/offices, and supervising Eco-Club activities.
<b>Parents</b>	Volunteering time and resources for garden development days, donating indigenous seedlings, and promoting the policy at home.
<b>Community Members</b>	Inviting local botanists or conservationists to give talks and collaborate on projects that link the school to the wider local ecosystem.

## 2. Practical Guidelines: Biodiversity Network (Specific Actions)

This section details the **specific actions** required to achieve our vision, focusing on the Biodiversity Network theme.

### Biodiversity Network Actions

#### 1. Indigenous Planting Initiative:

- **Action:** Replace all non-indigenous, water-guzzling ornamental plants in key areas with local, indigenous species that provide food and shelter for native insects and birds.
- **Process:** Identify and mark areas for immediate replanting. Engage a local nursery for advice and bulk purchase of plants suited to the local climate.

#### 2. Habitat Creation and Monitoring:

- **Action:** Construct and install bird feeders, insect hotels, and small mammal shelters using reclaimed materials in designated quiet zones.
- **Process:** Learners will build the habitats in Technology or Science classes. The Eco-Club will establish a weekly routine to monitor which species use the new habitats and document findings.

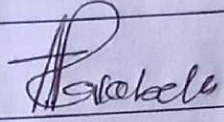
#### 3. Soil Health and Composting:

- **Action:** Establish a large-scale composting system to process all organic waste

from the school tuck shop and grounds, creating nutrient-rich compost for the biodiversity plots.

- **Process:** Ground staff and the Eco-Club will manage the compost tumblers, teaching classes about the importance of healthy soil in sustaining the plant and microbial life within the network.
4. **Community Mapping Project:**
- **Action:** Create a **Biodiversity Map** of the school grounds and surrounding areas, identifying areas of high ecological value and areas needing intervention.
  - **Process:** Share the map with the community to encourage external participation in maintaining or expanding the local green spaces linked to the school.

Approved and Signed by:

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Principal	Ratobela TM		21/10/2025
Chairperson of Governing Body	Moshupye AS	Moshupye AS	21/10/2025

