



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF THE WESTERN CAPE

Migration Study in the Western Cape 2001

Executive Summary

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Compilation of the main report.

Catherine Cross of the HSRC made a major contribution to the main report. The executive summary and the main report were compiled from the following research reports which form part of Migration Study in the Western Cape in 2001:

1. **The relationship between migration and the HIV -AIDS pandemic: a preliminary South African analysis by SB Bekker and K Swart (University of Stellenbosch).**
2. **Foreign African migrants in the Western Cape by B Boaden (University of Cape Town).**
3. **Estimation of the extent of out -migration from the Western Cape 1999 - 2001 by R Dorrington and T Moultrie (University of Cape Town).**
4. **The influence of state educational and health facilities on migration into Western Cape, an Exploratory study by P Cloete (University of Stellenbosch).**
5. **Resident's perceptions regarding migration and social service delivery (especially health and education): Case studies in George and Cape Town by Robert Mongwe (University of Stellenbosch)**
6. **Migration Monitoring Model: The establishment of techniques for local municipalities to monitor migration streams within the Western Cape Province by J D Paul and K Swart (University of Stellenbosch).**

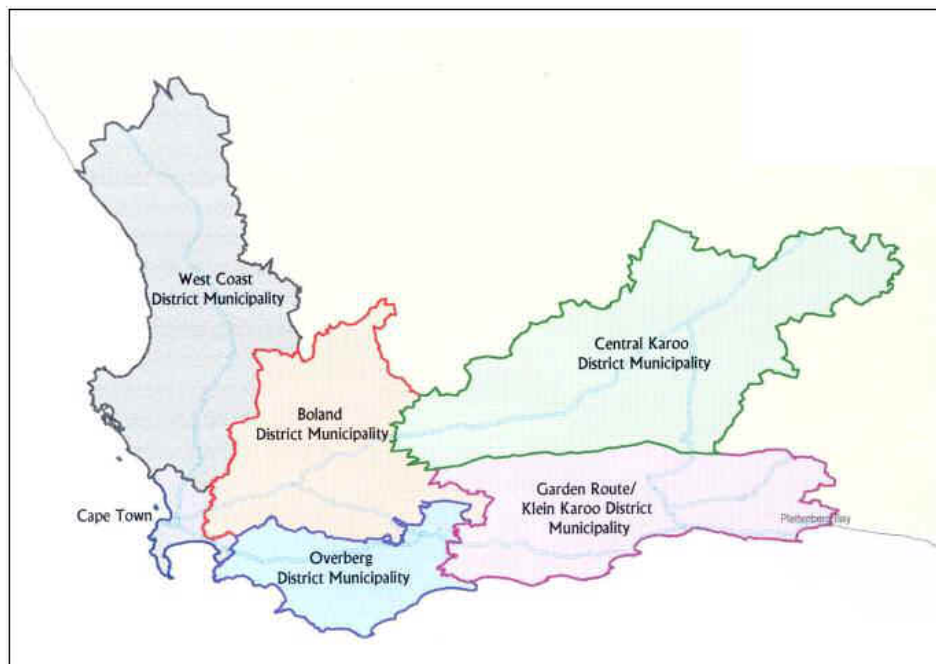
The study was managed by a Steering Committee comprising provincial officials as well as senior academics from

- the University of Cape Town (Prof R Dorrington),
- the University of Stellenbosch (Prof S Bekker), and
- the University of the Western Cape (Prof Y Amoateng)

A. The main report describes the results of a migration study commissioned by the Department of Planning, Local Government and Housing of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. The purpose of the study was to establish a reliable profile of migration into and within the Western Cape province, and to identify a method that could be employed by municipal officials for the systematic monitoring of future migration streams. Migration within the province was analysed along two dimensions: in terms of the three settlement categories: rural, small town and 'metro', and, spatially, in terms of migration between the (new, *i.e.* 2001) District boundaries, of which there are five (see Map below). All residents of the province were included. The period April 2001 to March 2002 was given as the time frame for the study which was managed by a steering committee comprising senior academics from the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and the Western Cape together with provincial officials.

A separate report on the monitoring of migration by municipal officials within their municipal areas has been submitted. This report includes a monitoring model developed with municipal officials in the province as well as a set of recommendations on how this initiative may be launched.

The most important results of the main report are discussed below.



B. The Western Cape is currently a net receiving province in South Africa. It is estimated that on balance some 48 000 people enter the province each year. This represents an increase due to in-migration of more than one per cent of the total population. The main reasons are the perceived better job opportunities, more accessible and effective infrastructure, and superior quality of life available in the Western Cape. These differences are particularly striking with regard to the two contiguous provinces of the Eastern and Northern Cape from where much migration originates. Economies are stagnant and infrastructure inferior in this region, leading to continuing in-migration streams of poor individuals and families which are shallow from the under populated Northern Cape and powerful and fast from the heavily populated Eastern Cape. This second stream may well represent the largest and most rapid demographic flow in South Africa at the moment. Simultaneously, the Western Cape continues to offer work, infrastructure and a quality of life perceived to be good enough to attract better-off individuals and families arriving from a much larger national and international region. There is no good reason to believe that these trends will change in the near future.

In the light of this large annual net in-migration flow, it is apparent that provision of housing and its associated infrastructure as well as of town and regional planning will need to extend beyond existing backlogs. Estimates of the annual scope of such additional provision regarding housing, schools and clinics, based upon mean household sizes and PGWC norms, are given in a footnote below.¹

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- Using a mean household size of 4, some 12 000 households are expected to enter the province annually on a net basis. This figure may be taken to represent demand for dwelling units.
- Education planners in PGWC use as a norm 1 000 households to justify the establishment of a primary school and 2 000 households to justify the establishment of a secondary school. Accordingly, as a result of net migration, 12 new primary and 6 new secondary schools will be required on an annual basis.
- Health planners in PGWC use as a normal local population of between 7 500 and 10 000 in a greenfield residential area (such as an informal settlement) to justify the establishment of a new clinic. Since existing clinics in urban areas are perceived to be underutilized, especially in the afternoons, this norm is applied in new residential areas at some distance (5 km or more) from existing clinics. Accordingly, rather than estimating that 5 or 6 new clinics will be required on an annual basis, it is more appropriate to assume that one half of the in-migrant individuals will take up residence at some distance from existing clinics and in this case, the requirement will be in the range of 2 to 3 new clinics per annum.

For historical reasons, the present migration patterns of each of the three main ethnic populations of the province are reasonably coherent whilst differing sharply from one another. The long established Coloured population is deeply rooted in both Cape Town and its hinterland Districts. These two subpopulations however appear to be dividing with diminishing exchange and a consequent loss of family ties taking place between metro and non metro. An increase in provincial in-migration from neighbouring provinces is currently underway, aimed at non metro Districts whilst, largely from Cape Town, substantial out-migration to the north of the country of skilled workers and labour migrants appear to be taking place. The White population also contains an important deeply rooted subpopulation whilst many are migrants from far afield. Many Whites accordingly appear to be footloose, migrating both into, as well as between, metro and non metro areas within the Western Cape. Net White flows are clearly into the province. A large majority of adults in the African population are recent Western Cape residents with roots in the Eastern Cape, in the former Transkei in particular. A large youthful population has settled in Cape Town and is contributing significant natural increase from among families that have established themselves here. Simultaneously, it appears that a new non metro subpopulation is establishing itself in the east of the province. In so far as this is continuing, the common perception of stepwise gravity flow migration from the Eastern Cape down the south coast and onto Cape Town is being replaced by one of two split flows, one toward Cape Town and the other to selected Districts. Overall, net African flows are high and into the province.

In the light of these intra-provincial migration flows, it is apparent that demand by in-migrating poor households for appropriate infrastructure in the Districts is rising and that planning for urban consolidation, probably in the east of the province, is required.

Within the province, substantial population exchanges continue between Cape Town and provincial Districts. These are significantly higher for the African and White than for Coloured populations. Simultaneously, most Districts have recently been suffering from economic recession in the agricultural sector and, in the case of the West Coast, in manufacturing and commerce. This has led to substantial population instability in non metro areas, driving Coloured farmer workers toward provincial towns and African and White non metro residents toward the metro. The one exception to these trends is found in the Garden Route/Klein Karoo where residents appear to be more satisfied with both their economic situation and the state of infrastructure and services. Accordingly, residents in these areas appear to be

staying put and migrants picking up. At District level, the West Coast and Central Karoo are entry points into the province for Coloured households from depressed areas in the Northern and Eastern Cape. Though small, these streams appear to be picking up. Substantial African populations are establishing themselves in the Garden Route/Klein Karoo and the Boland and, more recently, in the West Coast District. Whites are the most footloose of the three ethnic populations and are migrating both into the metro and toward the coastal Districts of Garden Route/Klein Karoo, Overberg and the West Coast, frequently to retire.

Poverty in the province is widespread among Coloured and even more so among African households. Women and female-headed households in particular are more at risk than men. Accordingly, it has been the search for work that has driven poor households to enter, and move within, the province. This is particularly true for African households who often move on in search of work without their children who join them later. In the last three years, moreover, this engine has increasingly been driving poor Coloured households. Simultaneously, demand for improved infrastructure also drives these households. The pull of improved housing and health services, in the first place, and the push of poor transport services in the Districts, in the second, stand out as factors. Educational services appear to be less important as an attractor. Demand for improved infrastructure appears to be highest in the West Coast District, lowest in the Garden Route/Klein Karoo and variable in Cape Town.

In the light of these push and pull factors, it is apparent that the location of housing and health services in relation to potential economic growth and job opportunities ought to be a critical planning tool.

- Individuals decide to migrate for a number of reasons, most of which are related to their households and its members. The search for state educational and health services is seldom the main reason though these become important issues once a household settles. Accordingly, though it is rare that children and the sick migrate specifically in search of such services, demand for them will rise as migrant households enter the province, its Districts and the metro.
- The phenomenon of foreign African residents in the province is a new one. Though it proved difficult to research their migration histories, it appears that numbers are not large, probably significantly smaller proportionately than in the north of the country. These migrants are found overwhelmingly in Cape

Town and are involved in a spectrum of economic activities, most of which are beneficial for the local economy.

The symbolic issue of perceptions by the public, civil servants and the mass media of the presence of this migrant population is a sensitive one.

- Links between population movements and the most serious epidemic South Africans have ever had to address is a serious issue in the province. No data on the relationship between migration and the spread of the HIV – AIDS epidemic exist at present. The relationship is reciprocal – migration is selective in that those who are mobile tend to be younger and more motivated as well as sharing fewer social ties than residents in receiving areas. Consequently, they may be more at risk as a result of their sexual behaviour. Simultaneously, once individuals become aware of infection, they may well decide to migrate in search of improved medical service, in search of more family support, or to return to their communities of birth to die.

More research on these issues is urgently required.

As a net receiving province, populations arriving and settling in Cape Town and provincial Districts may be viewed as contributing demographic resources to the Western Cape. Coloured and African populations bring in potential young and ambitious workers as a demographic resource whilst the older and relatively small White population contributes few workers but brings in economic resources of capital and skills from far beyond the borders of the greater Capere region.

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