

**KGID  
2025****Green Growth:  
The Path to  
Sustainable Jobs**

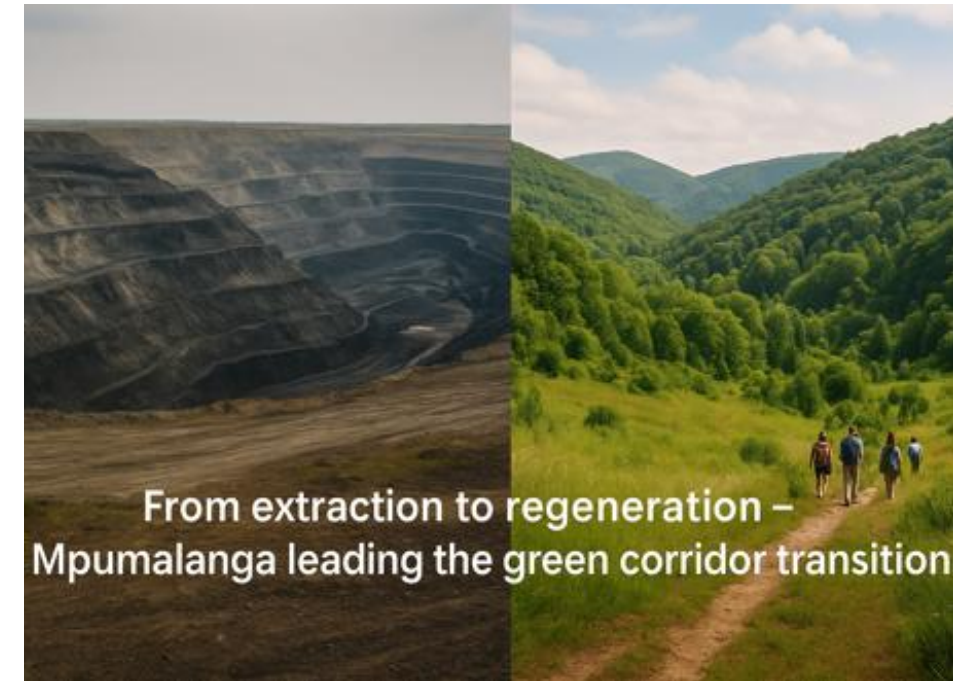
# Provincial Leadership, Permitting Coordination, and Bokgoni Mine as a Biodiversity and Ecotourism Pilot

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# A Province-Driven Model for Mine Repurposing

- DARDLEA is spearheading a province-led approach to transform retired mines into biodiversity-rich ecotourism zones.
- This initiative aligns with South Africa's Just Transition Framework, balancing environmental restoration, economic inclusion, and social resilience.
- Vision: From abandoned coalfields to living landscapes that restore ecosystems and support local livelihoods.



# One Province, One Permitting Pathway

- DARDLEA coordinates multiple departments: Mining, Tourism, Forestry, Economic Development, and local municipalities.
- Created an inter-departmental coordination platform to align environmental approvals and project planning.
- Developing a single provincial entry point for mine repurposing — streamlining permitting and reducing duplication.
- This approach enables investment readiness and faster implementation of nature-based projects.

# Bokgoni Mine: Mpumalanga's Flagship Pilot Site



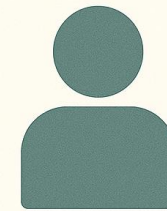
- Mpumalanga's first biodiversity and ecotourism pilot under the “mine-to-nature” initiative.
- Pre-feasibility study underway with World Bank and KOMIR support.
- Focuses on three interconnected components:
  - Ecological restoration - hydrology, slope stabilization, and native vegetation recovery.
  - Botanical Garden - environmental and biodiversity research, and indigenous species.
  - Ecotourism infrastructure - trails, visitor facilities, and educational zones.

# Restoration Potential and Economic Promise

- Case studies indicate strong potential for:
  - Ecosystem recovery — improved water regulation, re-vegetation potential, and habitat connectivity.
  - Job creation — projected creation and increase in temporary jobs during restoration and permanent jobs in tourism and maintenance.
  - Community benefits — support for local SMEs and cooperatives.
- When restoration and ecotourism investment proceed together, returns multiply - environmental impact becomes economically self-sustaining.



Ecosystem



Jobs



SMEs



Tourism

# Collaborating for a Replicable Model

- Next step: move from feasibility to implementation with partners — World Bank, KOMIR, and private investors.
  - Joint project design and engineering for mine restoration.
  - Awareness raising amongst various stakeholders including the private sector.
  - Skills transfer and training for local communities.
  - Blended financing (public, donor, private) to sustain scaling.
- The long-term goal: establish Mpumalanga as South Africa's demonstration province for mine-to-nature transformation.





# From Pilot to Province-Wide Transformation



- The Bokgoni pilot will serve as a blueprint for future sites.
- The vision is to create a connected network of restored mines that function as biodiversity corridors, community tourism routes, and local enterprise zones.
- Mpumalanga’s ambition: to lead the national transition from coal dependency to nature-based prosperity.

# THANK YOU

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