**Swaziland’s inputs on the environment and the rights of the child**

**Legislation, Policies and programmes in relation to the protection of children’s rights from environmental harm.**

* The Children Protection and Welfare Act 6/2012 (CPWA)
* The Environmental Management Act 5/2002
* The Swaziland Environment Authority Act 1992
* National Environmental Policy
* Environmental Audit and Assessment Review Regulations 2000
* The Waste Regulations 2000
* The Air Pollution Regulations 2001
* The Water Pollution Regulations 2001
* The Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations 2003
* The Chemical and Management Policy 2016

Other laws related to the environment but not administered by the SEA authority are:

* The Water Act 2003
* The Game Act 1993
* The Flora Protection Act 2001
* The Natural Resources Act 1951
* The Natural Resources Regulations 1951
* The Swaziland National Trust Commission Act 1972
* The Plant Control Act 1981

**Good practices in environmental matters in the fullfiment of obligations to protect and promote children’s rights**

The State has taken various steps to ensure the right to life, survival and development for every child. Given that these rights depend on age-appropriate support throughout the life of the child, the measures cut across the full spectrum of services and programmes provided by the various sectors. Measures include, for example:

1. Health systems strengthening interventions to improve the survival and healthy development of young children and adolescents through sexual and reproductive health services (SRHs). This includes behavior change and educational campaigns to prevent risky behaviors such as substance abuse and early sexual debut.
2. Early childhood care and development services, including parenting support and early education programmes.
3. Measures to address the risks of additionally vulnerable groups of children to survive and develop, such as children with a disability and children living in poverty.

Capital punishment is not applied to children in Swaziland and no children are subjected to extra judicial killings.

Key policies that promotes the right to food, water, sanitation and health include:

1. Swaziland National Health Policy
2. Children Policy
3. Standard Treatment and Guidelines
4. Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy
5. Swaziland Nutrition Draft Policy**.**

The Government runsa school feeding programme in all government schools. Various programmes, such as the Distribution of Food (World Food Programme) and the Water Harvesting and Sanitation Programme supported by UNICEF prevent and treat disease and malnutrition through the provision of food and water and sanitation services.

Working together with its partners, the Government has made progress in improving access to water and sanitation services. Household access to improved drinking water increased from 69.8 to 72 percent, and to sanitation from 11 to 17 percent between 2007 and 2014.

**Procedural Rights of Children**

Section 35 of the Constitution empower children whose rights are violated, likely to be violated to approach the High Court for redress.

**Freedom of association and expression of Children**

The CPWA guarantees the right of children to hold and express their views freely and have their opinions taken into account in any matter affecting them. This right is given effect through various processes and platforms made available by government departments as well as NGOs facilitating children’s participation in decisions that affect their lives. Platforms include:

1. Peer groups and school-based clubs with a focus on AIDS, the environment, and other issues
2. Junior child protectors
3. Student representative structures at secondary schools such as the prefect system and the student representative councils
4. Education programmes such as the School Health and Population Education;
5. Global Entrepreneurship Week in schools
6. Young Heroes programme supported by the National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA) and partners.
7. Clinic Teen Clubs supported by the Ministries of Health, Education, Youth and development partners are hosted at clinics and provide peer support and access to information.
8. Girl Empowerment Clubs run by Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA)
9. Scouts and Girl Guides
10. Super Buddies Children’s Clubs.

**Challenges that impedes the full realization of Children’s environmental rights**

* Lack of resources
* Legislations and policies regulating environmental matters do not specifically protect the rights of Children, they generalize.

**Regulation of Corporations and other non-State actors in relation to the protection of Children’s rights from environmental harm**

Section 97 of the Employment Act prohibits the employment of children in industrial undertakings but does not prohibit the employment of children in domestic and agricultural work. Likewise, Articles 233, 236, and 237 of the Children Protection and Welfare Act prohibit hazardous work for children in industrial undertakings including mining, manufacturing, and electrical work but these prohibitions do not extend to children working in the agricultural sector.

The Environmental Management Act regulates the collection, transportation, sorting, storage, disposal of or otherwise management of waste that result in an adverse effect. It further requires one to acquire a waste licence.