Category: **Obligation to Make Environmental Information Public**

Sub-Category: Online Tools and Applications related to Access to Environmental Information

Name of Good Practice: **South African Waste Information Centre (SAWIC)**

Key Words: Access to Information, Technology, Internet, Participation

Implementing Actors: National Ministry: South Africa Department of Environmental Affairs

Location: South Africa

Description: South Africa in some cases has gone beyond responding to requests for environmental information by proactively providing environmental information to the public. For example, the Department of Environmental Affairs has created the South African Waste Information Centre (SAWIC), a website that provides a wide spectrum of information on waste management to the public.

In addition to providing access to all laws, policies, strategies, plans and regulations governing waste management, SAWIC also provides an up-to-date list of all waste management licenses and license applications, including licenses to remediate contaminated land, treat wastewater, dispose waste on land, and store waste. The website also lists and includes links to all draft documents that are subject to public comment with instructions on how the public can submit comments. SAWIC also publishes up-to-date statistics on waste management, and provides background information, such as questions and answers and summary documents, on waste management in South Africa.

Further Information: See SAWIC’s website: <http://sawic.environment.gov.za/?menu=75>.