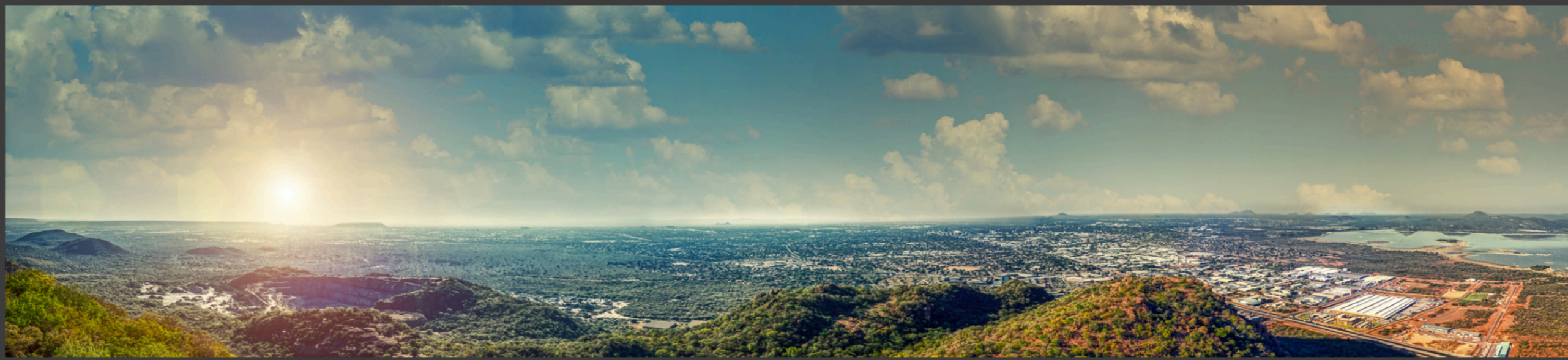


Defining the policy challenge

More often than not, public servants will be instructed by management to look into developing a new policy or review an existing policy to address an identified challenge.

A problem statement is usually one or two sentences that explains the problem that your policy will seek to address. In essence, it will outline the negative points of the current situation and explain why it is important to address this. It must be clear and precise in order to ensure clear focus and scope for the policy design process.

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How do you write a policy problem statement?

For example, your minister approaches you to say that the country is being pressured by international organisations to reduce carbon emissions. Your minister asks you to see what policies can be implemented to address this.

- Step 1: Start to write a general statement on the issue +
- Step 2: Ensure that the statement focuses on an existing problem +
- Step 3: Examine the statement from various stakeholder perspectives +
- Step 4: Include a timeframe over which the problem has been occurring +
- Step 5: If there are figures, include the necessary quantities +

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