

ELMIEN PUTTER

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Experienced **Environmental Health Practitioner with 32 years of professional experience** in the full scope of Environmental Health. I began my career in 1992 after completing my studies at the then Technikon Free State and served in the South African National Defence Force until my early retirement in 2024.

Environmental Health has always been more than a profession to me — **it is a lifelong passion**. I remain deeply committed to promoting environmental health, protecting communities and sharing the knowledge and skills gained throughout my career.

My experience includes Environmental Health management, food control, water monitoring, waste management, hygiene, communicable disease prevention, environmental pollution control, hazardous substances, vector control, health surveillance, education and training, as well as the management and development of Environmental Health personnel.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

I started my career in the SANDF as an **Environmental Health Practitioner in 1992** and progressed through the Environmental Health ranks to become **Control Environmental Health Practitioner / SANDF Provincial Environmental Health Manager in 2002 till retirement in 2024**, with the military rank of **Lieutenant Colonel**.

Responsibilities included:

- Management of Regional Environmental Health Services
- Water monitoring and food control
- Waste management and general hygiene
- Health surveillance of premises
- Communicable disease surveillance and prevention
- Vector and malaria control
- Chemical and hazardous substance safety
- Environmental pollution control
- Port Health
- Environmental Health education and training
- Environmental Health personnel, resources and financial administration
- Monitoring, evaluation and operational support

Part-Time Lecturer – Technikon Free State | 1995–1998

CPD Coordinator – Central University of Technology | 2024–2025

CPD Coordinator – Verte Dynamique Solutions | 2025–Current

LIFE BEYOND THE PROFESSION

My passion for **health, the environment and sustainable living** continues in my personal life. I currently enjoy farming and breeding different varieties of chickens, including producing beautiful and naturally varied coloured eggs. I am also involved in **organic vegetable gardening**.

These interests reflect my continued belief that **healthy people, healthy environments and sustainable practices are closely connected**.

PROFESSIONAL MOTIVATION

“Environmental Health has been my profession for more than three decades, but it remains my passion. I believe that knowledge is most valuable when it is shared, applied and used to improve the health and wellbeing of communities.”