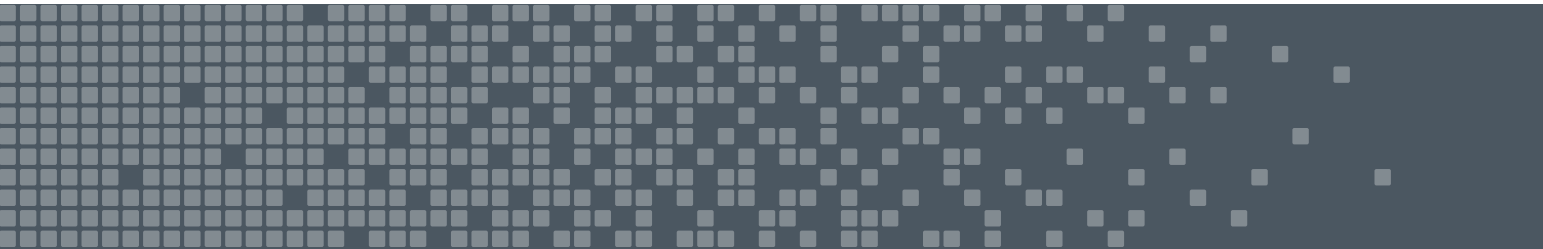


# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER -  
DECEMBER  
2024-2025

**Vol. 2**

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# Editor's Note

## Dear Stakeholder, Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter



**Nosipho Hlatswhayo**  
CEO

 [info@sacities.net](mailto:info@sacities.net)

**W**elcome to this exciting edition, with milestones and initiatives reflecting our unstoppable momentum in building more innovative, inclusive cities! The past quarter has been a whirlwind of progress, and we're thrilled to share the standout moments with you.

First, let's celebrate some exciting new additions to the SACN team! We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Yasmin Coovadia as our new Executive Manager: Programmes and Mr. Elijah Ramulifho, the new Programme Manager for Sustainable & Resilient Cities. Congratulations to Ms. Kayla Brown, who has officially stepped into the Programme Manager: Inclusive Cities role after an impressive tenure in an acting capacity. We're confident these leaders will drive even greater impact in their roles.

Kicking off the quarter with Urban October, we were honoured to facilitate a thought-provoking panel at the National Urban Forum, where we explored the challenges and opportunities shaping our urban landscapes. On World Cities Day, celebrated on 31 October, we took things a step further by hosting the Urban Film Festival and launching Season 3 of Good Hood Stories in collaboration with the Department of Human Settlements—stories that celebrate the power of community transformation.

On the global stage, the SACN participated in the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo, Egypt. We proudly screened Good Hood Stories at a special Urban Cinema Event. We witnessed a historic moment as Human Settlements Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi and UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach signed an agreement to establish a UN-Habitat Country Office and Programme in South Africa.

Back home, our Inclusive Cities Programme hit a major milestone with the launch of the 5th State of Urban Safety Report in South African Cities. This report marks a decade of impactful work by the Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) and continues to serve as a critical tool in shaping safer, more secure urban environments.

Our Innovative Cities team hosted an engaging City Data Ecosystem Peer-Learning event, bringing together eThekweni Municipality and the City of Cape Town to share their data journeys and exchange ideas. Meanwhile, the Productive Cities team contributed valuable insights at the 6th Gauteng Environmental Research Symposium (GERS 6), advancing the dialogue on sustainability.

The Sustainable and Resilient Cities team continued the conversation with their 7th and 8th Cities' Lunchtime Chats, focusing on climate resilience and co-hosted with SALGA. Last but not least, the Well-Governed Cities programme took centre stage with its participation in the Governance Oversight and Learning Network (GOAL-N) and a timely webinar on the implications of the Electricity Regulations Amendment Act for municipalities, in partnership with Stellenbosch University's School of Public Leadership.

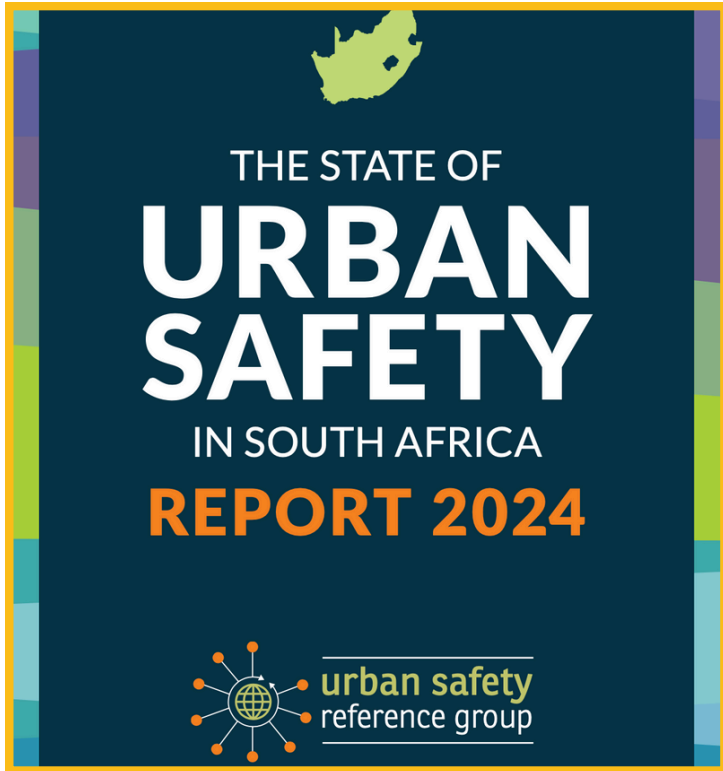
We hope this edition fuels your passion for urban innovation and inspires you to take action. As always, your feedback and support are invaluable to us—let's continue building the future of our cities together!

Best Regards,

*Nosipho Hlatswhayo*



## Launch of the State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report 2024



On 11 December 2024, the South African Cities Network and its partners, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit or GIZ and Global Affairs Canada (GAC), launched the fifth edition of The State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report. The 2024 Report, updating on trends and highlighting the work of the USRG in the period 2022 – 2024, also marks the 10th anniversary of collective, city-led efforts to learn, share, exchange, test practices and produce knowledge and evidence for safety governance across institutions with a role in safety.

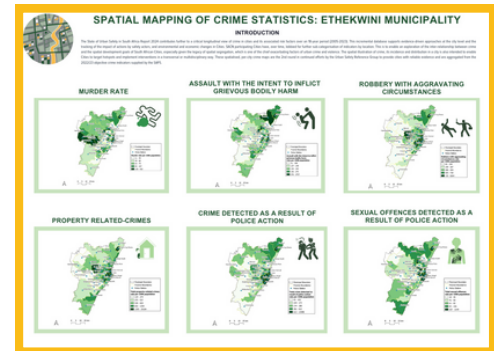
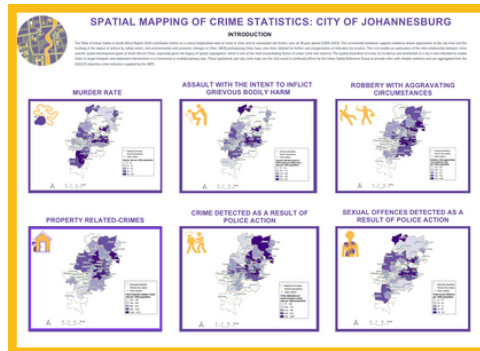
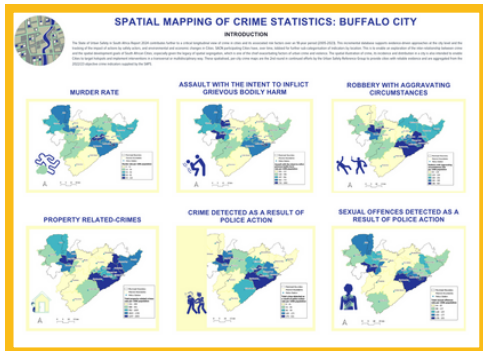
The 5th Report contributes to the USRG's longstanding objective of providing cities with an authoritative, incremental, longitudinal view of crime and violence to support evidence-based decision-making. In the last edition of 'state of' reporting, the USRG began to spatialise crime data, showing each city's true distribution of various crime types. This is incredibly empowering for their planning, collaboration, budgeting, and targeting, especially in the context of limited resources.

This edition departs slightly from the regular format of previous 'State of Urban Safety' Reports as it reflects on the last 10 years of city-led, structured engagement on the topic of urban safety.

While it does provide the usual updates on city crime trends, developments in relevant policy, and profiles of exemplary practices from South Africa's largest cities, this edition is especially exciting as it gives a clearer, more tangible sense of what safety is. It frames safety as not just a state of security but also our sensory experience of the public realm — what it smells, sounds, looks, and feels like when we feel safe or unsafe. This helps immensely to clarify and amplify the call for collaboration across sectors on safety.

The USRG has planned a robust engagement programme across key stakeholders in the following months regarding this Report.

### Examples of Spatial Mapping of Crime Statistics per City found in the 2024 Report:







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**Majaha Dlamini**  
Urban Data  
Manager

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## City Data Ecosystem Peer-Learning Session

On 26 November 2024, the innovation team hosted a City Data Ecosystem peer learning session attended by data champions from various cities. The session was headlined by eThekweni Municipality and the City of Cape Town, both of which provided presentations sharing insights into their respective data journeys. The event offered a unique opportunity for city representatives to exchange insights, share successful strategies, and collaborate on addressing shared challenges in data management and utilisation.

From discussions on open data initiatives to emerging technologies on integrating data-driven decision-making, participants explored innovative ways to improve city operations and service delivery.

This event marked a significant step toward creating smarter, more connected cities through robust data ecosystems.

**Greenbook Metroview**  
www.durban.gov.za

HAZARD LIKELIHOOD | Surface Water Flooding


EXPOSURE TO SURFACE WATER FLOODING

LIKELIHOOD OF HAZARD (Score)	NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPOSED	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION
Very Low Likelihood	871,837	25.7
Low Likelihood	1,139,236	28.4
Medium Likelihood	1,189,844	29.2
High Likelihood	733,566	18.8
Very High Likelihood	75,006	1.9

BY 2030 ETHEKWENI WILL BE AFRICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY

### Open Data Policy

- Open Data Policy approved by Council on 25 September 2014
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Review of Policy initiated October 2019 and revised Policy approved December 2020
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Review underway (Current Status On Hold)



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASAKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD

**OPEN DATA POLICY (POLICY NUMBER 27781)**

REVISED AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL:  
03 DECEMBER 2020 VIDE ITEM C20/12/20

Participants: NH, MD, SM, MM, NS, NM, SC, SB, RG, PS, SB, ND, PS, SW, etc.



## Partnering for Sustainable Transitions: SACN at the Gauteng Environmental Research Symposium

This quarter, the South African Cities Network had the privilege of being a partner at the **6th Gauteng Environmental Research Symposium (GERS 6)** on the 22 October 2024 at the University of Johannesburg. It was hosted by the Gauteng Department of Environment and held under the theme "Sustainability: Transition from Policy to Practice". This event brought together a diverse group of researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society to bridge the gap between research, policy, and practice in addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges.

One of the symposium's primary focuses was to facilitate productive collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and networking, and bridge the divide between research, policy, and actionable implementation.



Attendees at the GERS 6

As part of SACN's ongoing commitment to fostering collaboration and amplifying cities' voices in addressing pressing environmental and economic challenges, our Junior Researcher had the honour of delivering a plenary presentation titled "Guidelines and Options for Incorporating Nature-based Solutions in Cities' Planning, Budgeting, and Implementation Practices." This presentation shared practical examples to inspire decision-makers to incorporate these solutions into city strategies, aligning environmental sustainability with economic growth and social equity goals.

The Productive Cities Programme remains committed to fostering collaboration and amplifying cities' voices in addressing pressing environmental and economic challenges. By participating in events like the Gauteng Environmental Research Symposium, SACN strengthens its role as a conduit between cutting-edge research and practical solutions for sustainable urban development.



SACN Junior Researcher, Kopano Ntsoane presenting on Nature-based Solutions



GERS 6 Session in action

# Sustainable and Resilient Cities



Elijah Ramulifho  
Programme Manager:  
Sustainable and  
Resilient Cities

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## Cities' Lunchtime Chats: The Nexus Edition Continues

The South African Cities Network (SACN) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) hosted two chats to close off the 2024 calendar year. Chat No. 7 took place on 6 December 2024, and the discussion focussed on **Climate-Proofing Human Settlements: Strategies for Climate Resilience**; as extreme weather events and disasters impact human settlements, causing significant losses, we must consider climate-proofing and climate-change strategies. Join this riveting Cities Lunchtime Chat as we explore ways for municipalities to be resilient.

The guest speakers included:

- **Georgina Smit**, Head of Technical and Executive Director, Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA),
- **Amy Davison**, Head of Climate Change, City of Cape Town

Chat No. 8. took place on 10 December 2024, and this discussion focussed on **Building Cities for Climate and Disaster Resilience**.

The guest speakers included:

- **Dr Mandy Barnett**, Chief Director, Adaptation Policy and Resourcing, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).
- **Dr Zachariah Mshelia**, Disaster Management Training and Education Centre (DiMTEC), University of the Free State.

If you missed out on these chats, you can watch them on our YouTube Channel by clicking on the images below:

**CITIES' LUNCHTIME CHATS: THE URBAN NEXUS EDITION**

**6 DEC**  
12:30 - 2:00PM

**Chat No. 7**

**CLIMATE-PROOFING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

As extreme weather events and disasters impact human settlements, causing significant losses, we must consider climate-proofing and climate-change strategies.

**Speakers**

**Georgina Smit**  
Head of Technical and Executive Director  
Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA)

**Amy Davison**  
Head of Climate Change  
City of Cape Town

South African CitiesNetwork

**SALGA**  
SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
Inspiring service delivery



**CITIES' LUNCHTIME CHATS: THE URBAN NEXUS EDITION**

**10 DEC**  
12:30 - 2:00PM

**Chat No. 8**  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

**BUILDING CITIES FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE**

**Speakers**

**Dr Mandy Barnett**  
Chief Director, Adaptation Policy and Resourcing  
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

**Dr Zachariah Mshelia**  
Disaster Management Training and Education Centre (DiMTEC)  
University of Free State (UFS)

South African CitiesNetwork

**SALGA**  
SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
Inspiring service delivery







## Governance Oversight and Learning Network (GOAL-N)

The second Governance Oversight and Learning Network (GOAL-N) workshop was convened on 30 October 2024 in partnership with the City of Joburg legislative support team. Researchers supporting MPAC from Ekurhuleni, Joburg, Nelson Mandela Bay, and Tshwane compared their systems and processes to deal with unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures. In the new year, we hope to have the same discussion with Buffalo City, eThekweni, and Mangaung.

On 7 November 2024, the Community of Practice on Urban Governance and Municipal Finance held a webinar on the implications of the Electricity Regulation Amendment Act for municipalities. The panellists were:

- **Neil Cole**, Just Energy Transition Programme Management Unit.
- **Nhlanhla Ngidi**, Head of Electricity & Energy, SALGA.
- **Nndwamato Mutshidza**, Divisional Head of Energy Business, City of Tshwane.
- **Lerato Kgalema**, General Manager of Grid Access, City Power, City of Joburg.

The discussion touched on three questions:

1. How can municipalities identify financing models to support the transition to the new energy market?
2. What capabilities do municipalities need to develop to participate in energy trading effectively?
3. What role will independent power producers (IPPs) play in the new energy market, and how will this affect municipal utilities?

The panel also raised several concerns about the Act, the most important being the lack of prior consultation with municipalities on the impact of changes to their legislated role in electricity reticulation. The degree of municipal interest was reflected in the high attendance – 237 registrants – consisting of practitioners from Cape Town, Buffalo City, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Joburg, Mangaung, Nelson Mandela Bay, Tshwane, as well as Bhisho, Cape Agulhas (Bredasdorp), Drakenstein (Paarl), George, Hessequa (Riversdale), King Sabata Dalindyebo (Mthatha) Knysna, KwaDukuza, Mmabatho, Mossel Bay, Newcastle, Sedibeng, and Victor Khanye (Delmas).

You can watch the full recording on our YouTube channel; click on the image below:



Lastly, the Programme Manager, along with the Programme Manager Policy, Research, and Advocacy, attended a two-day inception workshop on 27-28 November convened by the Centre for Research on Democracy to start planning the first Citizen's Assembly in South Africa on climate change, which will be held in early 2026.



## Urban October kicks off with the National Urban Forum

The National Urban Forum took place from 9-11 October 2024 in Johannesburg in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Department of Human Settlements (DHS), UN-Habitat and the South African Cities Network (SACN). The objective of the Forum aimed to highlight the strategic importance of managing rapid urbanisation in the context of responding to other megatrends such as climate change, smart mobility, and technology. It aimed to facilitate dialogue among government, civil society, private sector, and community organisations to promote sustainable urban development. Human Settlements Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi delivered an address on “The Global Habitat and Urban Agenda and the South African Urban Policy”.

SACN CEO Nosipho Hlatshwayo facilitated a session on the Challenges and Opportunities Shaping our Urban Landscapes, and our Programme Manager: Inclusive Cities, Kayla Brown, participated in a panel discussion on Urban Planning for Sustainable Human Settlements. The National Forum was a precursor to the Twelfth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12), convened by the UN-Habitat, which took place in Cairo, Egypt, in November 2024.



DHS Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi



SACN CEO, Nosipho Hlatshwayo



SACN Programme Manager, Kayla Brown

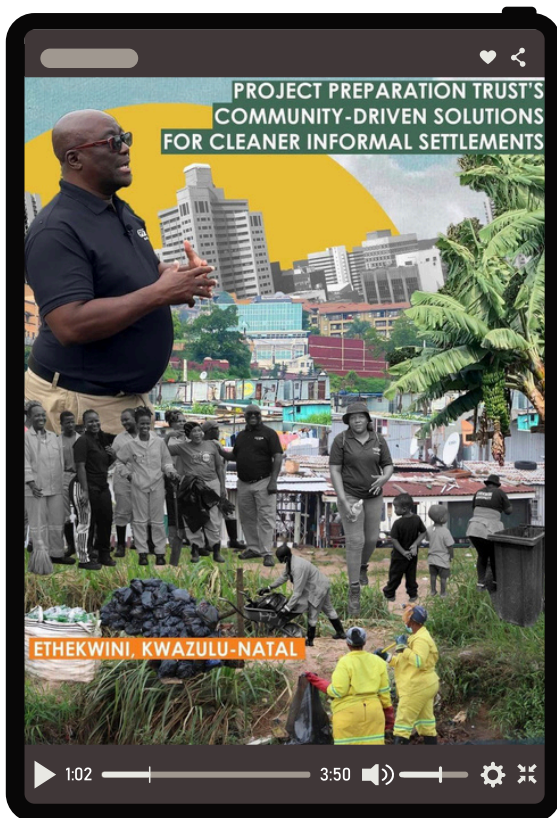
# Team News & Events

## SACN marks World Cities Day 2024 with the launch of Good Hood Stories Season 3!

The Good Hood Stories celebrate creative and collaborative city-making practices taking place across South African neighbourhoods. The third season of the Good Hood Stories has been created in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements, focusing on **transforming informal settlements**. The new season was launched on 31 October 2024.

Two exceptional projects were featured, demonstrating two important aspects of informal settlement transformation: the delivery of sanitation services and solid waste management. Project Preparations Trust's partnership with eThekweni Municipality on solid waste management and Asivikelane's gender-responsive service delivery in Knysna, Western Cape, both feature highly collaborative community-led approaches to informal settlement upgrading, which are championed through partnerships between different urban sectors.

The event included a film screening and two short panel discussions with the project champions. View the Good Hood Stories by clicking on the images below, and to view the *World Cities Day Urban Film Festival* recording, [click here](#).



**Good Hood Stories: Community-led waste management in Durban's informal settlements.**



**Good Hood Stories: Gender-responsive service delivery in Knysna's informal settlements.**



# Team News & Events

## SACN at the 12th World Urban Forum in Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 November 2024



The South African Cities Network CEO, Nosipho Hlatshwayo, and Programme Manager of Inclusive Cities, Kayla Brown, attended the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12) hosted in Egypt from 4-8 November 2024. Our CEO delivered the keynote address during the session “Forging Resilient, Healthy and Equitable African Cities” ahead of the regional Urban Forestry Forum in Johannesburg in 2025. During the forum, we also had the opportunity to have the latest season of the Good Hood Stories screened during the Urban Cinema Event. The forum also saw South Africa’s Human Settlements Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi, and UN-Habitat’s Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach, sign an agreement to establish a UN-Habitat Country Office and Programme in South Africa.



SACN CEO, Nosipho Hlatshwayo



Programme Manager: Inclusive Cities, Kayla Brown



Attendees at the screening of Good Hood Stories Season 3 at the Urban Cinema Event at WUF12



Human Settlements Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi, and UN-Habitat’s Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach

# Team News & Events

## SACN Appoints Executive Manager: Programmes



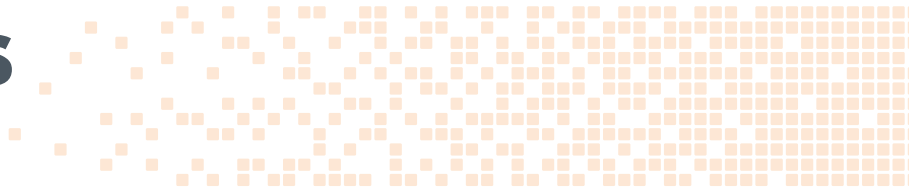
The SACN is excited to announce that Mrs Yasmin Coovadia has been appointed the new Executive Manager: Programmes. Yasmin has experience in city governance and planning, human settlements, development finance and spatial transformation. Her focus is on programme integration and futures.

## SACN Appoints Programme Manager: Inclusive Cities

The SACN is excited to announce that Ms Kayla Brown has been appointed the new Programme Manager: Inclusive Cities. Kayla has been the Acting Programme Manager and we are delighted in her permanent appointment. She has a passion for conducting research into the issues and dynamics affecting municipalities and their goals of achieving built environment integration.

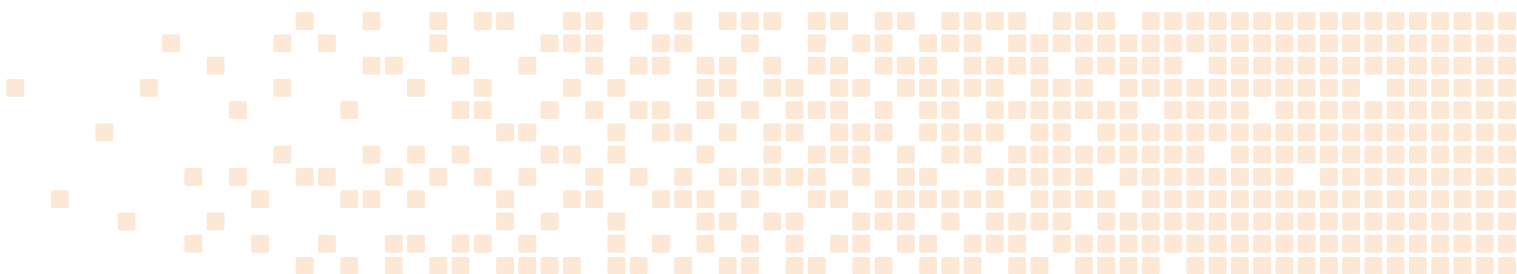






## **SACN Appoints Programme Manager: Sustainable & Resilient Cities**

The SACN is excited to announce that Mr Elijah Ramulifho has been appointed the new Programme Manager: Sustainable & Resilient Cities. Elijah brings a wealth of experience in climatology, sustainable & renewable energy and environmental management





As our loyal readers of our  
Quarterly Newsletter, we would  
love your feedback!  
Please [click here](#).



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