

JUNE
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New Urban Agenda Local Good Practice



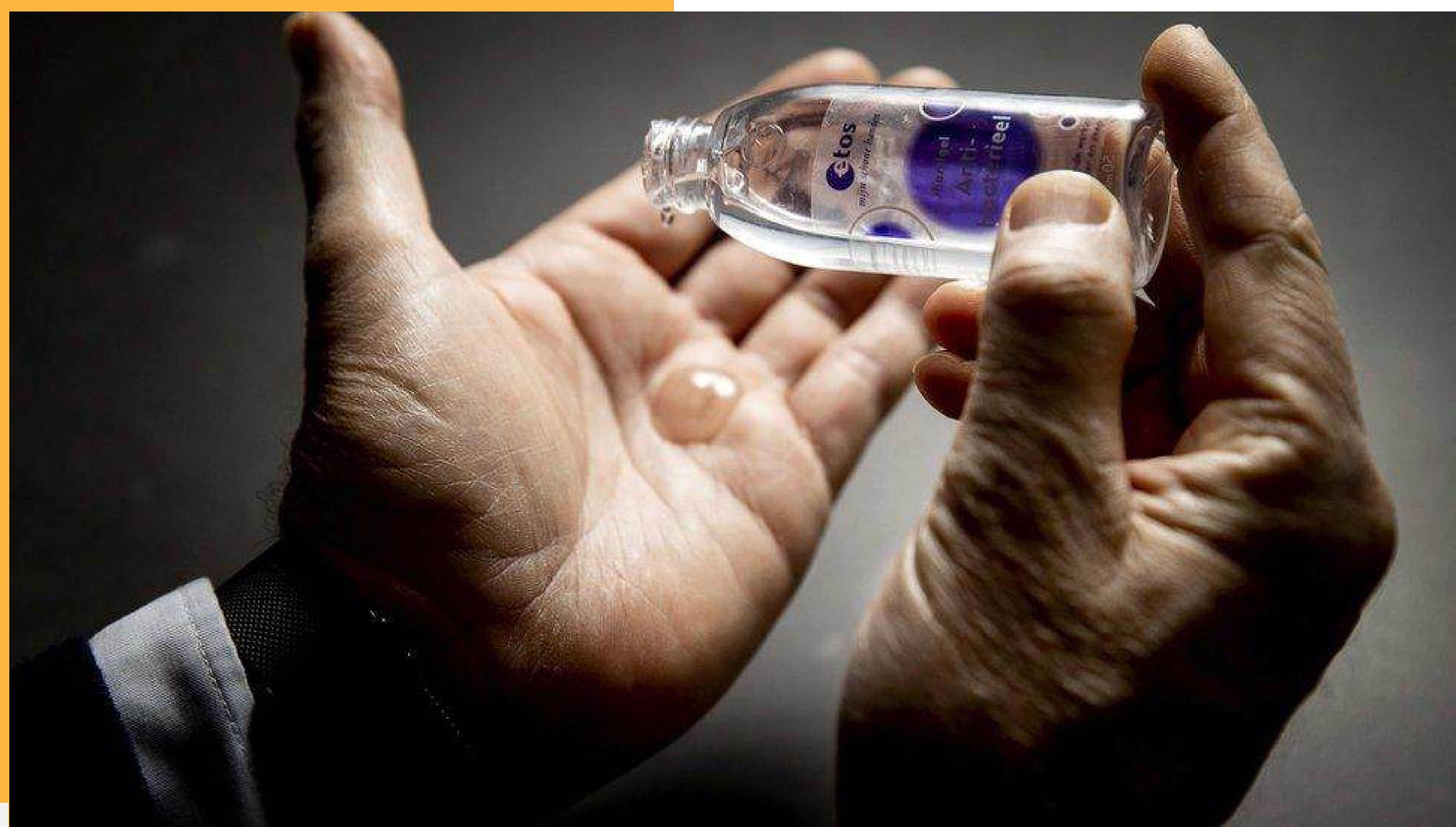
THE SOLIDARITY FUND

All of Society

National

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the private sector and civil society established this public-benefit fund to mobilise resources that would supplement the government efforts. The fund provided temporary employer–employee relief and support to small businesses under distress.

The relief efforts also had a gender dimension to it by supporting efforts against the gender-based violence. The initiative was funded by donations from businesses and citizens and distributed 59 811 food parcels.



UNDOING THE SPATIAL LEGACY OF APARTHEID

Cornubia Mixed-income Development, eThekweni, KZN

Cornubia is a mixed-use and mixed-income development, strategically located in the north of Durban between the CBD and the airport. The development aims to provide an inclusive urban settlement that offers a range of complementary uses (incorporating industrial, commercial, residential and open space) to diverse income groups. Cornubia is a catalytic development being spearheaded jointly by the eThekweni Municipality and the private company Tongaat Hulett Developments.

Cornubia is an example of a development that, at its core, is trying to undo the spatial legacy of apartheid, both through its positioning within Durban and through its mixed-income residential use. At the scale of the city, Cornubia is positioned to connect Durban's wealthy northern area with lower-income areas such as Phoenix, Ottawa and Waterloo. Unlike apartheid planning which sought to create barriers between areas of different race and income, Cornubia is trying to stitch these areas together. The development itself plans to accommodate over 25 000 new homes – 10 000 to be affordable/middle-income and another 15 000 to be government subsidised units. Locating affordable and subsidised units in such a mixed-use development demonstrates a different way of thinking about affordable housing that is connected to areas of economic opportunity as well as public facilities that include, schools, clinics, police stations, post offices and multipurpose halls.



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SAFETY AUDITS IN ETHEKWINI

KwaZulu Natal

eThekweni Municipality has a memorandum of understanding with the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) Safetipin, Masiphephe Network and Save the Children South Africa to improve GBV responses in the city and to promote the sustainability and effectiveness of social integration interventions. A city safety audit was conducted at six taxi ranks in KwaMashu, Ntuzuma and KwaNdengezi areas.

The audit identified areas for improvement that would result in safer and more inclusive public spaces. These included the lack of streetlights, shelters at taxi ranks, safe places for children to wait to be collected, and visible law enforcement. Parks and exit routes were found to be particularly hazardous for women and children.

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High levels of crime and violence are a significant developmental challenge for South Africa, especially in urban areas. Addressing this challenge requires an integrated approach which recognises that safer cities require more than just policing. South Africa recognises the importance of urban safety as a cross-cutting issue in the Integrated Urban Development Framework and has ratified the UN System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements. The country's Integrated Safer City Project brings together the South African Police Service (SAPS) and major cities, including eThekweni, Mangaung, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Nelson Mandela Bay, Tshwane, Rustenburg, Sol Plaatjie, Emalahleni and Polokwane.



URBAN SAFETY IS A CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE

National

In addition, the Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG), convened by the South African Cities Network, provides a platform for structured collaborative learning, exchange and advocacy among city practitioners and other government stakeholders on issues of urban safety. One programme to emerge from the USRG learning and discussions is the Park Activators Training Programme (PAC), which is co-piloted by Johannesburg and eThekweni. The PAC capacitates participants in public employment programmes (e.g. Expanded Public Works Programme) and leverages existing skills to make public parks inclusive, safe and accessible. Park activation coordinators are trained to conduct safety audits and implement sport, games, reading clubs and debates that involve children and parents of different neighbourhoods in the inner-city and contribute to the well-being and social cohesion of residents.

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SOUTHERNWOOD SQUARE SOCIAL HOUSING

Buffalo City Municipality, Eastern Cape

The Social Housing Regulatory Authority's (SHRA) mandate includes using social housing as a spatial transformation tool through restructuring zones

Southernwood Square is a Social Housing Estate that consists of 249 units situated in the old suburb of Southernwood, East London in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. The Own Haven Housing Association, which is a Social Housing Regulatory Authority-fully accredited social housing institution (SHI), implemented and managed the project. The project was funded by the Department of Human Settlements, with land contributed by the municipality and the Social Housing Institute (SHI). The complex comprises of multiple blocks of housing varying in height from two to nine storeys. Southernwood Square Social Housing Estate contributed to local economic development during the construction phase, through using local labour, suppliers and small and medium-sized businesses, and now employs local people for security, maintenance and other services.



MASAKHE STOKVEL

Gugulethu, City of Cape Town, Western Cape

In South Africa, households that are excluded from formal credit options are finding creative ways to finance their housing. One way is through community-led housing funding, using stokvels. Stokvels are “rotating savings and credit associations” found only in South Africa. Stokvel members contribute a fixed amount on a regular basis (e.g. weekly or monthly), as a way of saving towards future needs (e.g. groceries, cars, housing, funeral arrangements for themselves or loved ones).

The Masakhe Stokvel is a women-only stokvel that was established to pool funding for purchasing materials to self-build housing structures, which are used both for primary residential purposes and for generating income (backyard rental housing). The stokvel is exploring a formal partnership with the Department of Human Settlements in the Western Cape to extend their programme, take advantage of training in technical building skills and develop some of their own building materials (bricks). This community-led financing scheme may be at its early stages of development, but the power of stokvels should not be underestimated. They have an estimated value of R49-billion and a membership of 11.5 million



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TRANSACTION SUPPORT CENTRE

Khayelitsha, City of Cape Town, Western Cape

Piloted by the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance (CAHF), the Transaction Support Centre (TSC) aims to address tenure challenges, by facilitating formal residential property market transactions in the affordable housing market. Millions of households in the lower end of the market do not have title deeds to the properties they own, and millions of property transactions are processed informally. In the lower-value market, property transactions are difficult for parties to navigate, take longer than is financially feasible, create more risks and, ultimately,

cost more (as a proportion of the property value). As a result of established processes being poorly aligned with the needs of the transacting parties, formal resale transactions in the lower-value property market are less common, participation by mortgage lenders is limited, and the potential for property asset appreciation is undermined. The Transaction Support Centre coordinates and offers a range of services that enable households to transact formally in the residential resale market. It focuses on making the current regulatory and administrative framework

for property transactions work efficiently, in terms of time and cost for the buyers and sellers of residential property in Khayelitsha. Piloted by the Centre for Affordable Housing The Transaction Support Centre also offers a local focal point from where existing service providers are able to offer their services. These include various non-profit or community-based organisations offering services that support housing and housing finance market activities

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When one thinks of the Cape Town cycling scene, Langa- one of the oldest townships in South Africa- might not be the first place that comes to mind. However, Mzikhona Mgedle is on a mission to change that. Mgedle is the founder and director of the Langa Bicycle Hub and is working to create a community of cyclists in Langa. But more than that, he is creating a community of care by using cycling as a means of improved service delivery and community development. Mgedle, or “Mzi” as he is affectionately known, founded the Lanaga Bicycle Hub in 2020 at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. In a short space of time he has managed to create a hub which provices a number of bike centred services inclufing delivering medicines and food parcels to housebound patients (in partnership with St John’s NPO),



LANGA BICYCLE HUB

Langa, City of Cape Town, Western Cape

bike and wheelchair repairs, bike rentals, mentorship and skills training for youth, and a community centre of sorts where local youth can go to study, work, relax and have fun. The hub aims to be a home for all cycling needs. by increasing access to bicycles, Megedle is helping to make the citizens of Langa more independently mobile and connected to the space around them, as well as providing a space for exercise and recreation. Mgedle’s “just do it” attitude and his deep understanding of community dynamics have been key ingredients for his success thus far. Mgedle says of the hub, “We have created a community of care,” and the evidence in support of that is clear when one visits the space. The vision is for the hub to one day be profitable social enterprise, but as of now a lot of the work put in by Mgedle and his partners is done at their own expense.

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Thulani, one such partner, makes a living outside of the hub by working for the Red Cross Children's Hospital's Child Safety Programme. Prior to the formation of the hub, Mgedle was involved with the Langa Safety Patrol, the Langa Community Action Network (CAN) and Open Streets Cape Town. Mgedle has faced numerous challenges and obstacles. He has made many applications through the formal bureaucratic channels in order to formally set up the hub. While this has been a slow and painstaking process, it has not diminished his enthusiasm. Mgedle identified a well-located space as part of a local playground and adjacent to a school which had long been unused and largely neglected. There he placed a 10m2 container, out of which the hub now operates. Another ingredient of Mgedle's success is his connection to the community. Mzikhona originally hails from the Eastern Cape but he has called Langa home for many years.



LANGA BICYCLE HUB

Langa, City of Cape Town, Western Cape

“Those relationships to me are so crucial. To one, understand the ecosystem and the landscape and two, to have the credibility that one needs,” says Marcela Guerrero Casas, former head of Open Streets Cape Town “We can learn so much from people who are doing stuff in their own neighbourhoods...because they understand their environment so well...it is so much more authentic and effective at the end of the day.” Mgedle has demonstrated that effective community development action can and should centre the residents of the area in which development is meant to take place. He has also transformed the role of the bicycle. In Mgedle's hands, the bicycle is a means of service delivery, community building, safety upgrading, recreation, exercise and of course, a means of transport.

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GREENING BY EXAMPLE

City of Tshwane, Gauteng & Buffalo City Municipality, Eastern Cape



Tshwane: The city emits about 40% more emissions per capita than the global average. To reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, existing and new buildings will be required to use the least amount of electricity possible, conserve water, minimise waste and enhance biodiversity. The city is leading by example: its headquarters in the centre of Pretoria (Tshwane House) has a Green Star 5 rating for its design. This project is part of the City of Tshwane's broader sustainability agenda and commitment to environment sustainability. The City of Tshwane has signed the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Declaration coordinated by the World Green Building Council and C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group which provides a bold and far-reaching national and city vision.



Buffalo City: The Civic Centre Greening Project is an initiative of the Buffalo City Electricity and Energy Department that is aimed at improving energy efficiency and educating the public about alternative energy sources. The City's energy and financial building, Beacon Bay, is the first municipal building to be retrofitted (at a cost of R1.2-million) and serves as a public education showcase, with information displays and pamphlets in the building's lobby. A hybrid heat pump/air-conditioner pre-heats cold water going into the geyser, which reduces the power required to heat the water by up to 60% and produces air cooling. The solar installation is used to showcase different types of installations 3 Phase 20kW System for Commercial Buildings. As a result of the retrofit, the building has reduced energy demand by 35% and meets 40% of the demand from renewable energy sources. The capital costs were recouped through savings within 18 months. This project also allows the municipality to put electricity back onto the grid and complements Buffalo City's solar lighting project, which has replaced about 15 000 streetlights with LEDs.

COLABS, DIGITAL TECH HUB AND INCUBATORS

Soweto, City of Johannesburg Gauteng, Soshanguve, City of Tshwane
Gauteng & Khayelitsha City of Cape Town, Western Cape

Ekasi Bucks: This is an e-payment system and loyalty programme for township businesses aimed at encouraging the community to shop locally and businesses to improve their business. Founded by Lucky Kgwadi, Ekasi Bucks provides blockchain-based digital payment, point of sale, loyalty programmes and inventory management systems to township businesses, and is already active across the country in the townships of Soweto (Johannesburg), Soshanguve (Pretoria) and Khayelitsha (Cape Town). In 2018, the company introduced Ekasi Bucks shuttles and virtual malls. Virtual malls are a multi-vendor platform that allows any township-based business to open an online store and start selling their products within five minutes. Entrepreneurs can advertise directly to customers, track orders, accept orders and payments from the e-commerce platform, which attracted more businesses to join the platform. Ekasi Bucks Shuttles is a transport-on-demand platform for taxis afterhours in the townships, which increased the level of convenience and has digitised the sector. Kgwadi's current project (Ekasi Bucks Properties) is digitising the township real estate sector by building a platform that allows township landlords to list their available properties/space for rental, receive possible leads, set viewing appointments, sign digital lease agreements, and accept rent payment through the platform.



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COLABS, DIGITAL TECH HUB AND INCUBATORS

City of Tshwane Gauteng

The Innovation Hub, Gauteng: This is the innovation agency of the Gauteng Province and a wholly owned subsidiary of the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency. It offers incubation programmes in smart industries (Information Communication Technology (ICT)) and advanced manufacturing) and green economy (water purification, waste management and renewable energy) and operates various programmes, in enterprise development, skills development and innovation from the science park and throughout the Gauteng region. The Gauteng Accelerator Programme (GAP) Innovation Competition targets innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs who are working on novel technologies that will improve the efficiency of government service delivery, increase the competitiveness of the local economy and enhance the quality of life of ordinary citizens. Categories are ICT, medical, biosciences and the green economy. Winners of GAP receive a share of seed funding and cash prizes; incubation services with technical and business mentors, intellectual property lawyers; and access

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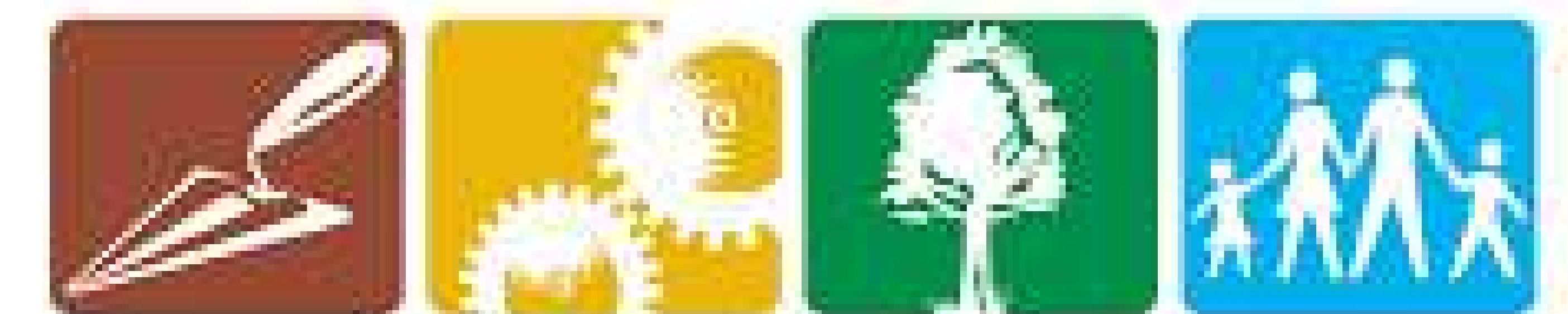
EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

National

In 2018/19, the CWP provided 280 000 work opportunities and, in 2019/20, the Expanded Public Works Programme provided 838 000 work opportunities or 267 000 full-time equivalent jobs. In 2019/20, cities implemented 1514 Expanded Public Works Programme projects across the infrastructure, environment and culture and social sectors, and the total wages paid out for implementing these projects amounted to R907.62 million.

Cities focused specifically on work opportunities for youth, women and people with disabilities. Five of the nine South African cities created at least 55% of the work opportunities for youth and for women. Over the years, cities have managed to institutionalise the Expanded Public Works Programme programme into their existing municipal structures, processes and systems.

Although the Expanded Public Works Programme provides people with short-term income, more can be done to develop skills of young people and ensure their absorption into long-term and productive employment.



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This initiative, which is driven by National Treasury's City Support Programme in partnership with the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation (SLF), was launched in 2020 to provide technical support over three years to five metropolitans (eThekweni, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Nelson Mandela Bay and Cape Town), to formulate and resource effective township development strategies at a pilot site. The aim is to develop a theory of change for township economic development (TED) through a holistic approach that includes spatial transformation, developing business high streets, strengthening the business ecosystem by reducing policy obstacles, enhancing skills and improving access to business support services, as well as improving safety and security and "liveability" within townships.



METRO TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME NATIONAL

eThekweni Municipality, City of Tshwane, Ekurhuleni,
Nelson Mandela Bay, City of Cape Town

The programme's three phases are: research and engagement, to establish an evidence base to identify TED opportunities for each pilot; support to metros for co-developing eight TED projects, which include New Brighton, Tembisa, Hammanskraal, Pinetown South and Delft; and advice on institutionalising the TED strategies and project implementation. Other partners include the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), the Small Enterprise Development Agency, the Small Enterprise Finance Agency, the World Bank and the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs.

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ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

City of Johannesburg Gauteng

Electrification: Johannesburg is home to 181 informal settlements, comprising an estimated 180 000 households where over half a million people live. As part of its plan to formalise informal settlements, the City has been installing independent power grids and using an energy hybrid mix of solar power and gas stoves:

- At Setjwetla near Alexandra, 1600 households have benefited from electrification, at a cost of R30- million.
- At Thembelihle informal settlement, near Lenasia, prepaid electricity metres and hybrid power were installed in 7000 homes, at a cost of more than R90- million.
- At the Lawley Station informal settlement, R79-million was spent on connecting 2000 homes.
- Over the past five years, more than 10 other settlements were connected to the grid, including Lehae, Lufhereng, Fleurhof, Tshepisong West, Devland Extension, Elias Motsoaledi Phase 1 and Narens Farm

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SMALL TOWN REGENERATION STRATEGY

National

The Department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs, in collaboration with the South African Local Government Association, realised that to move forward and give effect to the regeneration of small towns requires the following:

- A coordinated effort between the various spheres of government.
- An integration and alignment of the efforts of the various policies and programmes.
- The development of a Small Town Regeneration Strategy in order to assist with the coherent and structured implementation of the Small Town Regeneration Programme. As a result, the Small Town Regeneration Strategy was completed in October 2021. It is an attempt to unlock the inherent investment potential of small towns to break the insistent cycle of rising inequality and declining growth, and to stimulate growth. Therefore, the strategy provides step-by-step guidance on how to initiate the process, and reiterates the importance of an all-of-society approach, which places success in the hands of not only the local authority, but also the community and all other relevant stakeholders.

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THE COMMUNITY ADAPTATION SMALL GRANTS FACILITY PILOT PROJECT

Namakwa District Northern Cape & Mopani District Limpopo

The facility was piloted in the Namakwa District in the Northern Cape and the Mopani District in Limpopo. The projects included 12 small grant recipient projects aimed at building adaptive capability and delivering a range of tangible local benefits for 1921 direct and 9006 indirect beneficiaries. Projects fell into three categories:

- Agricultural adaptation assets: projects in the climate smart agricultural window included introducing hardier livestock breeds,
- Livelihood adaptation assets: projects in the climate resilience window included savings groups that provided additional income, support of adaptation measures, and the establishment of safety-at-sea mechanisms to protect small-scale fishing livelihoods.
- Settlement adaptation assets: projects include the installation of household rainwater harvesting systems,

shelters for herders to protect them against extreme temperature and systems to assist with weather prediction.

The 12 projects, which were implemented between 2018 and 2020, demonstrate the efficacy of community-level, context-specific approaches in supporting climate change adaptation.

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Sandmining can be a lucrative business for local communities, but people are often unaware of the government structures (such as the Directorate of Small-Scale Mining within the Department of Mineral Resource and Energy) and regulations governing sandmining. As a result, local communities are excluded and yet bear the brunt of the negative impacts associated with illegal sandmining. The Institute of Natural Resources (INR) project educates communities on sandmining, with the aim of curbing the spread of illegal sandmining and enabling communities to take ownership of their local resources by informing them of the government support available.

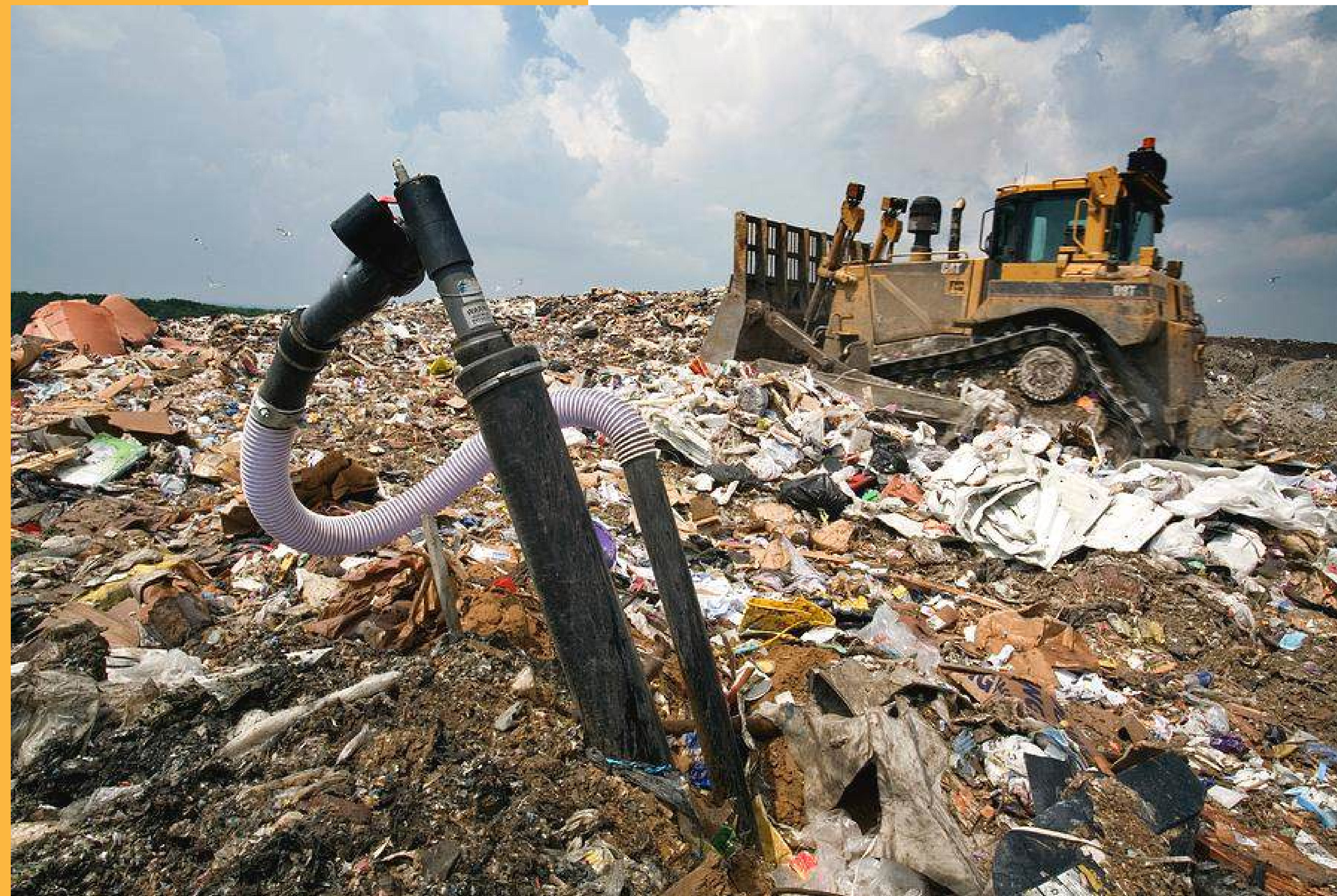


SANDMINING IN UMNGENI

Umgeni Municipality KwaZulu-Natal

In uMngeni, KwaZulu-Natal, communities are actively working to reduce the impact of human activities on the environment. The Institute of Natural Resources (INR) project shared information on the sandmining permit application process with the community, educating them on how to access government support and how to report illegal sandmining. Engagements with traditional authorities on the impacts of illegal sandmining were also held, to workshop the sandmining laws and permit application process. Three communities in the uMngeni catchment area in KwaZulu-Natal now understand the framework regulating sandmining; the social, economic, and ecological impacts of illegal sandmining; and the government support available to small-scale sand miners.

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GAS FROM LANDFILL SITES

City of Johannesburg, Gauteng

As part of its commitment to reduce carbon emissions, the City of Johannesburg is harvesting gas from landfill sites to produce electricity. This project reduces methane gas emissions that damage air quality.

At present, the city sources energy from coal-fired power stations and disposes of waste in landfills, both of which lead to dangerous methane gas emissions. The city's waste-to-energy project covers five landfill sites, with a combined potential capacity of 18.6 MW of electricity, and is the largest municipal-driven renewable energy development in South Africa.

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USING MIXED REALITY TECHNOLOGY FOR INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY PLANNING

City of Johannesburg Gauteng

In 2017, the City of Johannesburg partnered with UN-Habitat in the “Building the Public City” project, which built on work that the city had done in End Street North Park, where an innovative technology (Minecraft) was used to enable local stakeholders to redevelop, co-manage and co-activate the park located in the inner city. The City of Johannesburg, through Johannesburg Development Agency, again used Minecraft to redevelop a street and public space in the inner-city university precinct of Braamfontein. The Minecraft participatory process was enhanced by the use of mixed reality technology, which allowed student participants to “see” their Minecraft design tools in the physical space. The use of such tools takes participation from a wish list to detailed input into shaping city spaces, as the project leader said: People embrace [these technologies], particularly young people in our cities. [...] As a push towards participatory urban planning and design gains momentum on the African continent, more effective tools of engagement are needed to generate meaningful co-design methods and develop appropriate urban responses. Generating interest and fighting perceived powerlessness – particularly amongst marginalised people – demands careful consideration of engagement methods



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GAUTENG CITY REGION OBSERVATORY

Gauteng



Gauteng is the country's main economic node containing three metros (Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg) with a combined population of over 10 million. The Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO) is a partnership between the Gauteng Province, all local municipalities and two universities. The GCRO uses extensive Geospatial Information System (GIS) analysis to provide relevant research for provincial and local decision-making.

This partnership and use of GIS represent a best practice for improving urban and territorial planning, land administration and access to urban services.

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The Spatial Temporal Evidence for Planning in South Africa (StepSA) project emerged from a need for effective, coordinated and spatially targeted interventions and investments, among the various spheres of government and other stakeholders, in order to ensure government is able to address the apartheid spatial legacies and deliver on its targets and vision. The StepSA project has developed innovative technologies, development indices, and planning and simulation tools for the following:

- Identifying and tracking spatial implications of city and town growth trends, population movement and economic trends.
- Profiling of cities and settlements to understand specific investment requirements and opportunities.
- Exploring the most likely impact of housing and transport investments on spatial transformation and sustainability in cities.



SPATIAL TEMPORAL EVIDENCE FOR URBAN PLANNING IN SOUTH AFRICA (STEPSA)

National

This decision-support system plays a major role in supporting high impact and transformative investment decisions in settlements across South Africa. The modelling foundation created through StepSA enables alternative options to be evaluated for multi-billion-rand infrastructure and service delivery projects, not only based on cost or design, but also on how they support city targets and vision.



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CITY OF CAPE TOWN GREEN BOND

City of Cape Town, Western Cape

In 2018, following three years of severe drought, Cape Town narrowly avoided running out of water. To ensure water resilience, Cape Town issued a certified Green Bond accredited with the Climate Bonds Initiative. The R1-billion will be used to invest in climate change adaptation and mitigation projects aligned to the city's sustainability goals, including upgrading the municipality's water infrastructure. The Bond was financed by international investors at an exceptionally competitive rate.

The City of Cape Town is committed to continuous reporting to bondholders to inform them what the funding is being used for. These initiatives provide investors with additional assurance regarding the ultimate use of the bond's proceeds. One of the key lessons is that there is a significant scope and fiscal capacity for metros to mobilise resources by issuing bonds that are aligned to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda as well as local priorities.

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CATALYSING FINANCING AND CAPACITY FOR THE BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY AROUND PROTECTED AREAS

Global/ National

South Africa considers its national parks and provincial reserves as catalysts for socioeconomic development. However, less than 7% of its land is formally protected, which leaves critical biodiversity under threat of degradation and conversion pressure. The protected areas are managed by a range of national and provincial agencies, as well as private and communal structures. The government aims to have a fully representative sample of all ecosystems across the country by acquiring new land and declaring state land. The “catalysing financing and capacity for the biodiversity economy around protected areas” project, which is funded by the World Bank administered Global Environmental Facility, looks at community-based natural resource management. The Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries has developed a consultative process for communities affected by the expansion of protected areas, which enables them to participate in designing land restrictions and co-defining the impacts and mitigation measures, to avoid any adverse socioeconomic impact from the restricted land use and to reap the economic benefits. The project pays particular attention to the needs of vulnerable groups among those displaced, especially those living below the poverty line, the landless, women and children, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples who may not be protected through national land compensation legislation.



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