



South African

CitiesNetwork

QUARTER FOUR NEWSLETTER | 2020 - 2021



THE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK

QUARTER FOUR NEWSLETTER | 2020 - 2021



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Stakeholder,

Welcome to our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter.

The SACN is concluding its fourth 5-year strategic cycle for 2016/17 to 2020/21 and will embark on a new strategic business cycle with effect from 01 July 2021. To this end, the SACN Secretariat, in consultation with the SACN Board and Council, has drafted a new Strategic Plan for the next five years (2021-26). The new Strategy's vision is being conceived within a 10-year strategic outlook up to 2030/31. The 10-year strategic outlook aligns with the NDP Vision 2030 and key global agendas, including the UN 2030 SDG Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

South African cities are confronted by a spectrum of social, economic, financial, governance challenges; and not least of all the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic shock. If there is any silver lining, the COVID-19 shock represents cities' opportunity to shift to a new trajectory to build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. SACN was established to assist cities in navigating these complex challenges through knowledge generation, dissemination, and facilitating shared learning among cities and partners. SACN aims to set out a bold vision for the next ten years; and an actionable strategic plan for the next five years to support cities become well-governed, productive, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. The new Strategy aims to set clear and focused strategic objectives that enhance SACN's value offering to cities and make the organisation more effective, impactful, and relevant.

We are proud to announce our new Mission, Vision, and Values statements, which will guide the continued development of our organisational culture and strategy:

- Our Vision** - To promote high-performing and innovative cities that are well-governed, productive, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.
- Our Mission** - Building Better Cities by transforming policy-practice through knowledge co-creation, learning, and innovation, partnerships, and convening of voices.
- Our Values** - Listening, Knowledge in action, Shared Learning, Partnership & Innovation

Each of these statements is the result of a shared strategic reflection and revision effort by the SACN staff and Board. This year-long process has led us to reflect on our organisational culture and take time to listen to our participating cities and partners and examine

EDITOR'S NOTE



the way we conduct ourselves as an organisation. We also realise that while statements can be powerful – they can be meaningless when they are not backed up by actions. That's why we are promising to listen to your ideas, feedback, and thoughts that you have on our new direction as it evolves. What else do we need to be doing to actualise these statements, or what should we not be doing? We will continue to remain as transparent and straightforward as possible about our future as an organisation.

In this edition of our newsletter, we showcase some of the key SACN activities of our final quarter of the year. These include the Healing Fields project by the Built Environment Task Team. Under our Inclusive-Cities programme, we look at the Metro Youth Strategies project milestone & the Young Planners and Designers Competition's #DigitalDash Launch. The Productive Cities Programme highlights the launch of the Expanded Public Works Programme 2019-2020 Report and two Research Papers. The Sustainable Cities Programme looks at a Showcase of Sustainability Practices in Cities. We also look at Urban Governance in detail in the Well-Governed Cities Programme and finally, we update you on our News and Upcoming Events.

It is with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg; Councillor Geoff Makhubo, who passed away last week due to COVID-19. We extend our condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues of all South Africans who have lost loved ones during this pandemic. Our thoughts are with them during these difficult times.

We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter.

Thank you for being our loyal reader.

Best Wishes,

Sithole Mbanga
CEO



CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

By Xola Pakati

On 30 June 2021, the SACN ended its five-year business cycle, during which time local government politics have become more complex. Cities are plagued with governance issues and fiscal problems, which have been aggravated by the devastating advent of COVID-19 with its negative socio-economic impacts that are still unravelling.

Despite the turbulent environment, our programmatic interventions have proved that the SACN is still relevant and holds a strategic position in urban development and city management. Over the past five years, the SACN produced 58 publications and conducted over 125 learning events, which is a considerable achievement. Nevertheless, we have had to adapt to the rapidly changing environment and respond to cities' pressing needs. And while our knowledge products are relevant and impactful, an important lesson from the past five years is the need for us to strengthen the collective voice of cities and re-establish our convening power to play the advocacy role more effectively.

We have an opportunity to leverage our knowledge generation capability to deepen our impact through knowledge application. For example, by tapping into the knowledge developed over the years to find ways to help cities recover from the impact of COVID-19, which has highlighted their vulnerabilities to pandemics and other disruptive incidents, and ensures their sustainability and viability. Cities have criticised the SACN's current engagement methods for being limited and not going far enough to assist.



Councillor Xola Pakati is the Chairperson of the South African Cities Network Council, an NEC Member of SALGA, and the Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE



Therefore, over the next five years, we will be more forceful about our intention to embed ourselves in cities to strengthen our presence and relationships and to get knowledge implemented and scaled. Another focus area will be to develop and manage key strategic partnerships, as we have recognised the need to strengthen our existing partnerships and to invest in developing new local, regional, and global partnerships.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on all aspects of daily life and has revealed serious systemic risks for cities. It has exposed frailties in local economies, finances, health response, and planning, a chasm between city governments and their citizens, as well as inadequate risk management and crisis planning by cities. Yet on a more positive note, COVID-19 has forced a rethinking of city governance, to reset and aim to build back better. Institutions such as the SACN have the responsibility to lead the shift in urban research, to include new dimensions linked to the consequences of pandemics and other disruptive incidents, and to strengthen learning.

Lastly, our plea to all residents and city stakeholders is to be extra vigilant against COVID-19, as the anguish and sorrow that we continue to experience cannot be sustained. We all need to be part of rebuilding our cities and our country.



Councillor Xola Pakati is the Chairperson of the South African Cities Network Council, an NEC Member of SALGA, and the Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

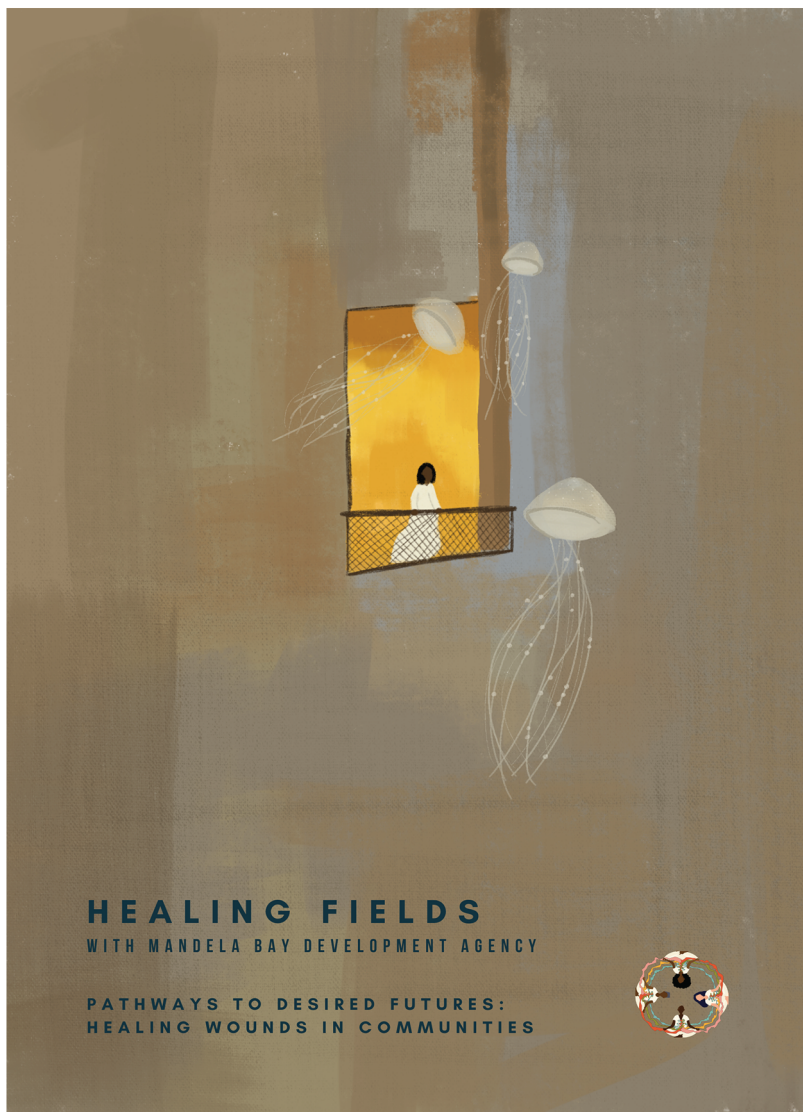
BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Healing Fields: A journey to healing people, places, and planet

Healing Fields, a project from the Built Environment Programme, intends to create a space for individuals to gather in a safe (virtual) space, to be still in acknowledging our traumas and their impact. This project came out of the Built Environment Integration Task Team (BEITT), which is a collective of city practitioners convened by the SACN. The BEITT seeks to understand why our cities are not transforming at the pace that they should be and shares knowledge across cities to advance this agenda. In a range of conversations with the BEITT, the issue of healing has surfaced, given the crucial role human interactions play in urban development. Once a month, the BEITT secretariat holds the Healing Fields sessions, which were piloted with the BEITT. As the project has progressed, the need to broaden the Healing Field has become more evident, with these issues transcending the realm of development practitioners.

In the past few months, Healing Fields has created space for guests to be in conversation with the participants. Academic, author and architect, Prof Amira Osman was the first guest at Healing Fields, engaging the group on the global pandemic and what it means for urban resilience; touching on mental health, and using architecture as a tool in healing spaces. Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng, VC of UCT also joined the Healing Field and spoke of the wounded leading the wounded. This touched on institutional trauma and the ways it perpetuates trauma to people and places.

The most recent Healing Fields session had Ashraf Adam and Thandi Mafu of the Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA) who spoke of the challenges and rewards of working within wounded communities and the impact it has on practitioners wellbeing. Another Healing Fields Session was in conversation with former minister and activist Jay Naidoo,

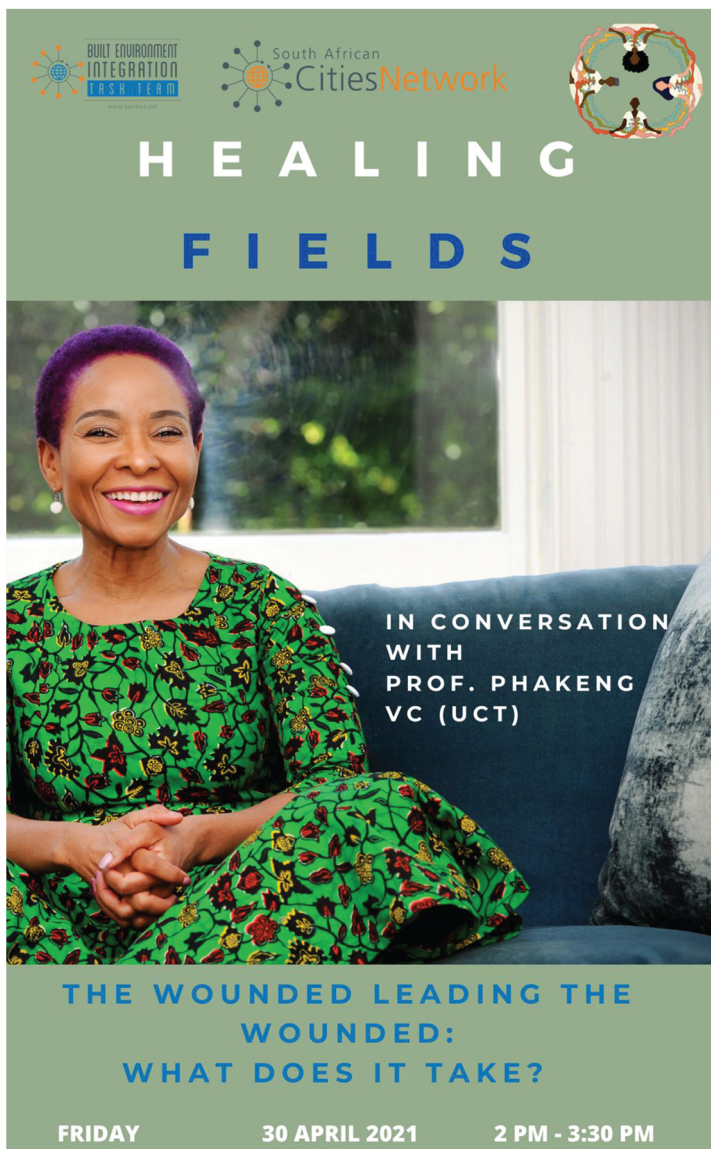


BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Healing Fields: A journey to healing people, places, and planet


who spoke about healing our land, cities, and people. The Healing Fields sessions are hosted on the last Friday of every month and are open to everyone.

To maintain the safety of the space, the recent sessions have not been recorded or shared. Instead, a visual representation is developed in each session to capture the conversation (see below). Healing Fields was conceptualised as a pilot project but will continue, as conversations around mental health, healing, collective trauma, and the psycho-social factors become vital to city-making.




Logo: BUILT ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATION TASH TEAM

Logo: South African CitiesNetwork



HEALING FIELDS



IN CONVERSATION
WITH
PROF. PHAKENG
VC (UCT)

THE WOUNDED LEADING THE
WOUNDED:
WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

FRIDAY 30 APRIL 2021 2 PM - 3:30 PM



Logo: BUILT ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATION TASH TEAM

Logo: South African CitiesNetwork



HEALING FIELDS

HOW DEEP ARE OUR WOUNDS?
HOW DO WE HEAL OUR LAND,
CITIES AND PEOPLE?



IN CONVERSATION
WITH JAY NAIDOO

FRIDAY 25 JUNE 2021 2 PM - 3:30 PM

INCLUSIVE CITIES

Inclusion and Wellbeing Programme

The Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) continued its engagements to expand knowledge and capacity on important themes, relevant to making South African cities safe and inclusive. In the quarter the USRG held virtual workshops on topics such as capacity building for transversal safety practice at the city level. The USRG also considered what scholarship there is on urban safety across the South African and global university landscape.

This is towards a framework for a cross-university platform, to support evidence-based planning and implementation within cities. The session heard a keynote address from Dr. Mark Shaw (director and founder of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime, based in Geneva) who is a leading scholar and prolific author in the field of criminology. Two virtual sessions reflected on and evaluated the progress made by the USRG regarding its 5 key outcome areas which include improving the understanding of potential champions and institutionalising urban safety within cities.

The Metro Youth Strategies project reached some exciting milestones. The first sub-component, the Youth and City Space cohort has completed its report, presenting fresh insights about the concerns, initiatives, contributions, and aspirations of youth in South African cities. The work will inform strategic engagements with decision-makers about youth voice and participation. It will also guide the development of tools for institutions to engage effectively with youth.



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**DISCUSSING
THE YOUTH
& CITY
SPACE
REPORT**

DATE: 17 JUNE 2021 **TIME:** 4:00PM-5:30PM

JOIN US ON SPATIAL CHAT

<https://spatial.chat/s/youthandcityspace>

INCLUSIVE CITIES

Inclusion and Wellbeing Programme

The second sub-component of the youth project, the Young Planners and Designers Essay Competition, launched the #DigitalDash in May. This publication is a summary and quick dash through entries from the competition held in 2020. It comprises a report, a mini-documentary, and video animations articulating some of the ideas of young scholars and professionals in planning, design, and urban development. Submissions ranged from those challenging the continued apartheid-Esque management of public spaces to urging for modern, adaptable townships that support informal livelihood strategies through inclusive spatial design and technology.

Others shared creative approaches to enhancing civic engagement, while some critiqued planning systems and institutional cultures that remain inherently elitist, a development that is resource-intensive and perpetuates gatekeeping around the direction of development and who benefits from it. The Competition is a platform of the SACN, and one of its various contributions to amplifying youth voice, improving active citizenship, and the quality of youth participation in shaping the cities and governments of the future. To find out more go to www.sacndd.co.za.

Youth Month was a welcome opportunity to communicate and share the Metro Youth Strategies work. The project participated in a live studio interview with Caxton Radio, talking about the importance of youth participation and being active and engaged citizens. In articulating the work and activities of the SACN in the youth stream, we highlighted the Integrated Urban Development Framework and its call to action for all of society regarding shaping more inclusive cities and accountable governments.

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#DIGITAL DASH

The Young Planners & Designers Essay Competition 2020 Publication

LAUNCH

DATE: 30 APR 2021 **TIME:** 10:00am-11:30am **VENUE:** ONLINE

INCLUSIVE CITIES

Inclusion and Wellbeing Programme

The Inclusion and Wellbeing programme also made presentations at partner platforms such as SaferSpaces, which held a conference titled Preventing Violence in South Africa: From policy making to evidence-based implementation on 7 and 8 June. The programme also co-chaired a space at the International Symposium on Inclusive-Cities, which took place from 28 - 30 June. SACN partnered in the event, together with eThekweni Municipality, ISOCARP, and the NRF among others.



**International Symposium
on Inclusive Cities**

WEBINAR

**28-30
JUNE 2021**

 [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

For any questions please contact
magidimishah@ukzn.ac.za

THEME
Achieving Inclusive Cities
through a multidisciplinary
approach



PRODUCTIVE CITIES

The State of the EPWP in South African Cities

The fourth reporting quarter of the SACN provides an opportunity to reflect on the various milestones and is characterised by various challenges facing the economy of the country. Unemployment amongst the youth is visible in our cities and remains the longstanding dilemma and a situation which has gone from bad to worse. In this regard, the SACN convenes and coordinates various pieces of work to respond to this crisis. With the recognition and acknowledgement that young people are a force that drives this country and need to be given access to opportunities so they can better themselves, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continues its role to reduce poverty through the reduction of unemployment, so that the youth, women, and persons with disabilities can drive change in their communities and contribute to our economy through the programme.

The EPWP is currently in Phase IV, which started in April 2019 and will run until March 2024. The EPWP Phase IV target is to create approximately 5 million work opportunities with a total budget of R2.7 billion in 2019/20, set to increase to R2.9 billion in 2020/21. This year's launch of the EPWP annual report is accompanied by two research papers that seek to guide the improvement and effective implementation of the programme. The paper titled In-depth analysis of selected EPWP cases and projects through EPWP phases, assesses and analyses selected EPWP case studies/projects implemented since 2004. The aim of which is to identify gaps, challenges, lessons, and provide practical recommendations. Informed by this paper is the How-To Guide on running effective EPWPs, which provides EPWP implementing agents with the tools and practical guidelines on how to successfully implement the EPWP in cities.

LAUNCH INVITE

30 JUNE 2021

9:00AM-9:45AM

on ZOOM

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER]

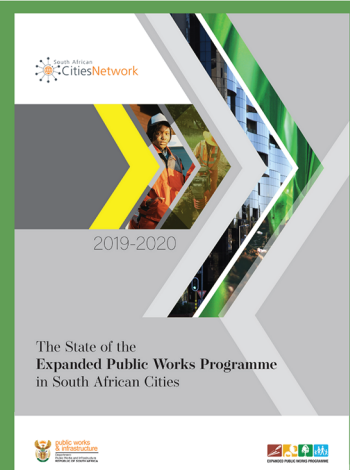
THE EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME
(EPWP) REFERENCE GROUP INVITES YOU TO
JOIN THEM FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE:

THE STATE OF THE EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

2019-2020 REPORT



**WE WILL ALSO BE RELEASING 2
EPWP RESEARCH PAPERS!**



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT SADHNA BHANA AT SADHNA@SACITIES.NET

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK

PRODUCTIVE CITIES

The State of the EPWP in South African Cities

The EPWP Reference Group was excited to host the launch of the EPWP annual report and two research papers, which were launched on 30th June 2021. As the SACN concludes the new five-year strategic business cycle, the productive cities programme will adopt a new approach and embed itself more with cities under the theme; review, engage and define.

Through the EPWP, SACN will continue convening the usual EPWP RG and producing related knowledge products, with an effort to better understand the opportunities and challenges while developing responses on how cities can catalyse public employment for innovation. For township and informal economies areas of work, the focus will be on economic transformation and investigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in these areas. This will result in the development of responses to the needs of each city and outlining catalytic economic interventions. Under the programmatic focus area of rethinking urban economies, the focus will be on economic transformation, and developing new economic governance and funding models.

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Report

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2019-2020

In-depth analysis of selected EPWP projects and case studies through the EPWP phases

A how-to guide on running effective Expanded Public Works Programmes

The State of the
Expanded Public Works Programme
in South African Cities



SUSTAINABLE CITIES

A Showcase of Sustainability Practices in Cities



As part of telling the sustainability transition stories of our cities in the upcoming State of Cities Report (SOCR) 2021, we asked our city officials to help us showcase initiatives that are making our cities more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive.

We covered a range of themes that address the environmental, social, economic, and governance principles of sustainable cities. From integrated planning in Msunduzi Municipality, energy efficiency and renewable energy in Buffalo City, the City of Tshwane, and the City of Joburg, to sustainable township economies and sustainable livelihoods in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, our cities are demonstrating practices that can be scaled up and replicated.

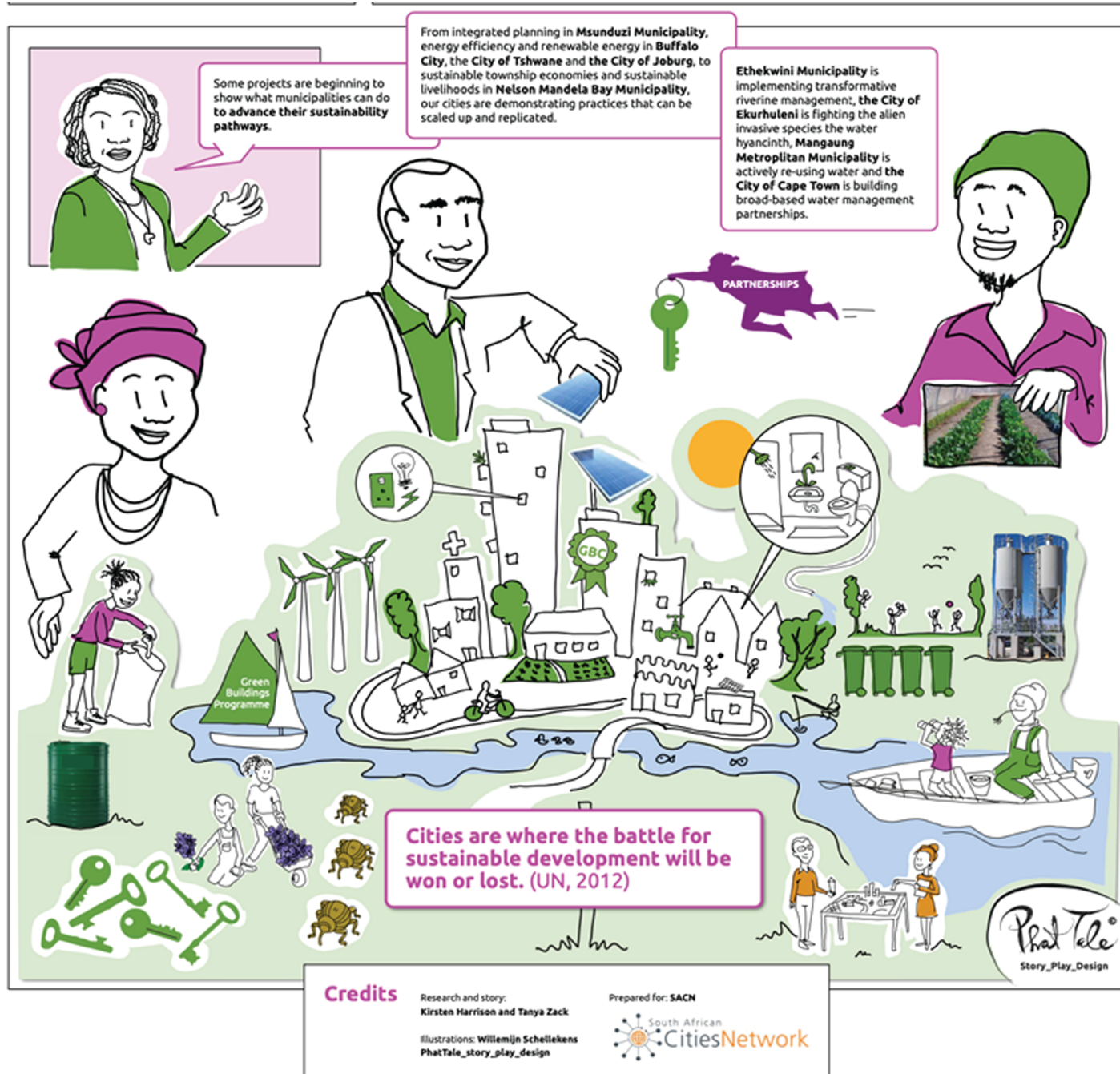
Ethekwini Municipality is implementing transformative riverine management, the City of Ekurhuleni is fighting alien invasive species in their wetlands, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality is actively re-using water and the City of Cape Town is building broad-based water management partnerships.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES

A Showcase of Sustainability Practices in Cities



Keep a look out for each city's story on our [website](#) and social media pages

WELL-GOVERNED CITIES

Well Governed Cities Q4 2020-21

Urban governance is about the various ways in which power is exercised in cities by the multiple stakeholders and actors who make up the urban space, from the government itself to the various civil society and the private sector. SACN's well-governed cities programme considers how South African cities are governed, and whether the political and institutional context is stable, open, and dynamic enough to accommodate varied objectives and interests.

A recurring question in the programme is the consistent failure to achieve the goals and outcomes espoused in South Africa's official urban policy, the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF).

The main activities of the well-governed cities programme in this quarter have been continuing the dissemination of the State of City Finances 2020 that was launched in March and championing the analysis component of the State of South African Cities Report. This is SACN's flagship report, which comes out every five years. The theme of this year's report is "effective cooperative governance and an all of society approach: cooperation, collaboration, and partnership between urban actors that works." It is guided by the hypothesis that effective cooperative governance and an all of society approach will strengthen the developmental mandate of local government.

The governance chapter in the previous State of Cities report called for a closer examination of the institutional environment in which cities operate and that has hampered the realisation of the social and spatial outcomes articulated in urban policies. The success of the IUDF is premised on coordinated investments in people, the economy, and places, yet failures in cooperative governance have hampered the effectiveness of cities. The imposition of a hierarchical, compliance-driven relationship between the spheres of government has limited the agency of ability of cities to achieve developmental goals; the system of cooperative governance does not work in favour of the metropolitan municipalities. In addition, the all of society approach is more noticeable in its breach than its observance. Cities do not adequately mobilise and involve all city stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in building a long-term vision of and commitment to spatial transformation.

Championing the analysis component of the report has meant bringing a governance focus to bear on the other programmes in the organisation. The thematic chapters from these programmes aim to provide insights into the governance required to achieve spatially transformed, inclusive, productive, and sustainable cities, guided by three central questions:

WELL-GOVERNED CITIES

Well Governed Cities Q4 2020-21

- Have cities (metros) addressed challenges and developed opportunities to effect change through cooperative governance and an all of society approach? What have they done and how and why have they done it?
- What have been the successes and the failures, particularly linked to the local government system, and related insights, lessons, recommendations, and solutions?
- What does this tell us (what are the insights) about the nature, power, and politics of different urban institutions, systems, processes, and stakeholders?

The thematic chapters are bookended by a chapter that defines urban governance and describes what the experience of cooperative governance and the all of society approach has been and another that provides a critical review of the government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

STATE OF CITY FINANCES 2020

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<https://www.sacities.net/municipal-finance-reports/>

The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Geoffrey Makhubo together with the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Environment & Infrastructure Services, Cllr Mpho Moerane officially launched the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) on Thursday, 03 June 2021 at The Roodepoort Theatre. The Mayor was accompanied by the Mayor of eThekweni, Cllr Mxolisi Kaunda, and C40 Cities Africa Regional Director, Mr. Hastings Chikoko, and other C40 cities Mayors who joined online. The message of support came from other C40 cities mayors including the Mayor of Accra in Ghana and Vice-Chair of C40, Mayor Sowah, and a special message from the current C40 Chair Mayor of Los Angeles, Mayor Garcetti.

The City of Joburg was the first city in South Africa to join C40 and has over the years demonstrated remarkable leadership in climate action.

The CAP reaffirms the City's commitment to supporting the well-being and livelihoods of all its citizens by pursuing a sustainable and just recovery. The Covid-19 crisis assisted in highlighting the potential severity of another global crisis, the climate breakdown: those hardest hit by the pandemic are largely the same people also facing the greatest threat from climate change. Mayor Makhubo said, "the CAP will ensure that the Johannesburg of the future will be carbon neutral and resilient to the devastating impacts of climate change, for the benefit of all its residents". The City will work towards these overarching goals step by step, through targets set with different deadlines (2025, 2030, 2040, and 2050), he concluded.



CITY FOCUS

In Memory of Executive Mayor Makhubo



The CAP that has been championed by the Environment & Infrastructure Services Department (EISD) and co-created with all key Departments and Entities, is consistent with the provision of outcome two of the Growth and Development Strategy (GDS) 2040, which makes provision for a resilient, liveable, sustainable urban environment - underpinned by smart infrastructure supportive of a low carbon economy. It also responds to strategic priority (Sustainable Environmental Development) of the Government of Local Unity (GLU).

On the international front, the City's CAP intends to fulfill the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement commits signatories to hold the increase of global temperature to well below two Degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 Degrees Celsius. As a member of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the City of Johannesburg's CAP is partly guided by the Deadline 2020 report that was published by C40 in 2016 as a practical response and demonstration by cities to partial fulfillment of the Paris Agreement.

MMC Moerane said "The main objective of the CAP is to put the City on the path towards achieving carbon neutrality and climate resilience by the year 2050. To achieve the carbon neutrality and resilience objectives, the CAP presents a short-term target to implement the deadline 2030 target, a medium-term target to be achieved by 2040 as per the City's GDS 2040, and the long-term carbon neutrality and resilience target by 2050". The City recognises climate action as a social justice imperative that is inextricably linked to the challenges of eradicating poverty and enhancing inclusivity and this CAP is a big step towards mobilising climate action across the City.



With the impact of climate change already being felt in the city, the climate action plan (CAP) reaffirms the City's commitment to support the well-being and livelihoods of all its citizens through pursuing actions that are geared towards a sustainable city.



#BeClimateWise

www.joburg.org.za

@CityofJoburgZA
@CityofJohannesburg
CityofJoburg

Making issues of climate change a major priority, the City will launch the Council approved CAP in June. We are increasing our capability to adapt & respond to the impacts of climate change.



#BeClimateWise

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CITY FOCUS

In Memory of Executive Mayor Makhubo



Evidence of erratic weather patterns indicates that global climate change is an inevitable part of our present history. Climate change hazards such as flooding, droughts and extreme heat are expected to increase in frequency and magnitude.



a world class African city

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CityofJoburg

Industrial activity, veld fires, coal-fired stoves in residential areas and vehicle emissions are major contributors to deteriorating Air Quality in the city.



a world class African city

#BeClimateWise

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Whether you believe in climate change or not, the world is getting warmer and we need to live in a manner that will not be harmful to the earth we live in.



#BeClimateWise

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@CityofJohannesburg
CityofJoburg

Increasing our capability to adapt & respond to the impacts of climate change and setting off on a path towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

The **CAP** will be publicly launched as part of **National Environment Month** (June) and **World Environment Day** (5 June) with the theme of Restoring our Ecosystem.



#BeClimateWise

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PUBLICATIONS LAUNCHED & UPCOMING EVENTS



Digital Dash publication was launched on 30 April 2021 - [click here](#)

PUBLICATIONS LAUNCHED & UPCOMING EVENTS



A Compendium OF THE BEITT JOURNEY

2017 → 2020

A JOURNEY
BY CITIES,
for cities



BEITT Compendium was launched on 27 May 2021 - [click here](#)



PUBLICATIONS LAUNCHED & UPCOMING EVENTS



2019-2020

The State of the Expanded Public Works Programme in South African Cities



The EPWP 2019-2020 Report was launched on 30 June 2021 - [click here](#)

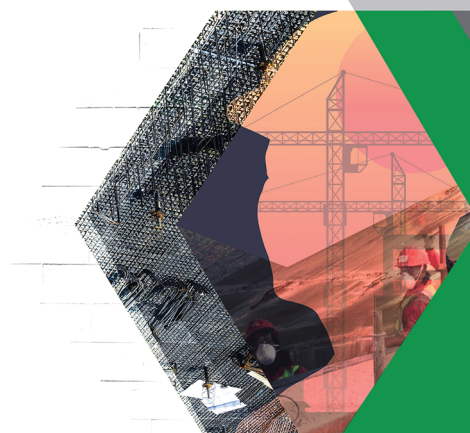
PUBLICATIONS LAUNCHED & UPCOMING EVENTS



Report



In-depth analysis of selected EPWP projects and case studies through the EPWP phases



A how-to guide on running effective Expanded Public Works Programmes



[click here](#)

[click here](#)

Upcoming Events

- State of Crime & Safety in SA Cities 2021 to be launched in the new financial year
- State of Cities Report 2021 to be launched in the new financial year
- Premiere Screening Night - Good Hood Stories: Finding Inspiration in My City - To be launched in the new financial year



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