

SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK

20
YEARS
South African CitiesNetwork
2002-2022
OF CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

RESEARCH COMPENDIUM

20 years of urban research



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INTRODUCTION TO THE SACN RESEARCH COMPENDIUM

SITHOLE MBANGA

Cities are complex and organic, and they are rapidly growing to be one of Africa's biggest opportunities and challenges for the 21st century. As practitioners, public administrators, politicians and institutions grapple with how to plan and govern for these evolving cities, public interest knowledge intermediaries like South African Cities Network become an essential ecosystem actor.

The SACN was established in 2002 and is an established network of South African cities and partners that encourages the exchange of information, experience, and best practices on urban development and city management. The SACN is focused on enabling cities to be inclusive, sustainable, productive, and well-governed.

SACN strives to support cities to become learning and adapting institutions through knowledge co-creation, dissemination, and application. The 5-yearly research programme pursued by SACN both creates and meets research demand. It stimulates research demand through its ongoing, grounded research questioning which continually frames and pushes an evolving national city research agenda. This research demand is in turn met through SACN's own research commissions, as well as also through responses across the rest of the knowledge and governance ecosystems. SACN is not just about creating research relevant to cities, but about using that research to drive institutional and societal change, to ensure our cities work better in practice.

Over the last 20 years of its existence, SACN has produced over 350 research outputs and 800 learning events. Through its reference groups, the five programmatic areas at SACN drive a practitioner-centric research agenda, to ensure research is relevant and impactful.

This Research Compendium aims to give a sense of the scale and content of research produced by SACN over the last 20 years. It is by no means a comprehensive repository for all publications, but rather highlights a few particularly interesting and valuable research outputs produced each year. It is also not an academic document, but rather celebrates SACN's research achievement in an accessible and playful way, using the visual analogy of a timeline. Key research publications are showcased alongside contextual events that took place in cities, to draw the parallels between our research and the real-life city environment.

Through these pages, we invite you to delve into the last 20 years of research at SACN and reflect on this impressive body of work with us.

Find all SACN publications at: <https://www.sacities.net/publication>



SITHOLE MBANGA

CEO OF SACN

REFLECTIONS ON 20 YEARS OF SACN RESEARCH

GECI HARURI-SEBINA ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CITY RESEARCH

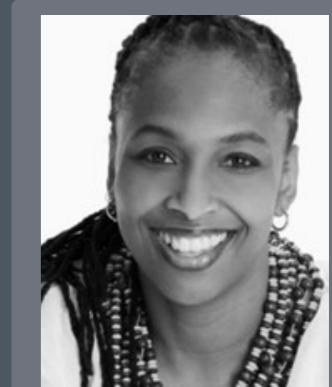
SACN's role as an organisation that dedicates itself to urban knowledge generation, knowledge management, and knowledge application through its knowledge and learning network has been a key feature of South Africa's urban governance landscape over the past 2 decades.

SACN's city research is important for many reasons. For one, it plays a direct role in supporting decision-making by supplying relevant, best-available, local and global knowledges about a range of urban issues and themes. South Africa has produced and partnered in a plethora of research studies over the years which have provided important data, ideas and insights about "the state of" urban societies, economies, ecologies, governance, and finances. Research has also been necessary to meet monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning efforts, which are essential for an innovation-driven society. Having done this over time, SACN has also become a unique part of the nation's institutional memory, able to track the urban story and dynamics over time and across administrations. This is important to enable informed, reflexive and contextual leadership and practice which can build upon experience and promote innovation, instead of reinventing the wheel or repeating mistakes. This is particularly important for contemporary African cities which are a relatively new phenomenon, and have been under-theorised in academic literature.

The research is also important for informing changing leadership as efficiently as possible. Through its means and ends, research contributes to building capacities of future urban practitioners, leaders and scholars who become steeped in relevant research methods and results. And finally the research itself offers important experimental ground to seek and evolve relevant methodologies and epistemologies; our ways of knowledge-building and validation. For years SACN has sought the best ways to generate and share city knowledge that matters, in the sense of making practical contribution to urban development.

STACEY-LEIGH JOSEPH ON THE IMPACT OF SACN'S RESEARCH

As a young researcher in the 2000s, I had numerous encounters with the SACN, particularly through the State of City reporting. These reports were seminal as they provided portraits of cities with dual identities that both perpetuated the legacies of apartheid and spatial injustice while still being spaces of opportunity with the possibility of becoming inclusive and productive spaces for all. By the time I joined the organization in 2013, I was excited and committed to its mandate of developing research that provided insights and evidence to inform city making. This meant working with city officials to produce knowledge and intelligence about the challenges and realities of cities, while also thinking of ways to deliver not only services in an innovative manner but also to reimagine the future city and its transformative potential.



GECI HARURI-SEBINA

FORMER EXECUTIVE MANAGER:
PROGRAMMES AT SACN



STACEY-LEIGH JOSEPH

FORMER EXECUTIVE MANAGER:
PROGRAMMES AT SACN

STACEY-LEIGH JOSEPH ON THE IMPACT OF SACN'S RESEARCH (CONTINUED)

Impact is something that is difficult to measure in a short space of time and I believe the role and value of the SACN is something we will reflect on in years to come. In a time when many organisations like SACN have been forced to rethink their mandate and offering, the work that it has come to be known for is perhaps more important than ever. It possesses critical institutional and historical knowledge and data of the South African city that should not be lost. This knowledge has been used by other key actors in academia, the private sector, and civil society; and SACN can take a great deal of credit for a number of programmes that were created due to its work and advocacy.

I wish it well for the next two decades and look forward to seeing what new insights and ideas emerge that continue to make the case for the importance of cities.

SIPHELELE NGOBESI ON THE IMPACT OF SACN'S URBAN SAFETY RESEARCH

In 2016 SACN recognised that available data, by way of national crime statistics, did not paint a full picture. Cities were disadvantaged in their ability to plan and implement in an evidence-driven way. SACN also made the case for a particular focus on crime and violence in cities as a developmental challenge, and so initiated annual State of Urban Safety Reporting.

Within cities, this research has enabled internal lobbying by practitioners and safety departments, for the necessary resourcing and buy-in to effectively implement safety programmes. Furthermore, it has enabled Cities' safety functions to sensitize other sector functions regarding their role in the co-creation of a safer city.

By dissemination through media, the research has had wider reach, facilitating a slow but steady shift in the understanding the multisectoral nature of safety promotion. From a subject that was widely thought to be about policing, SACN has been able to contribute in a way that highlights the importance of, among others, breaking socially and culturally driven cycles of violence, the critical role of the built environment, urban management and community participation in enabling or disabling crime.

Further afield, the urban safety research and the direct involvement of city practitioners in the generation of the knowledge, through the Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) as a structured platform, is a valuable template for learning and adaptation. Through its experience USRG has contributed to the development of the UN System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements. It has also used its experience and knowledge base to support the UN-Habitat and CoGTA led development of global safety indicators and the localisation of these in pilot cities across South Africa.

SADHNA BHANA ON THE SCALE OF RESEARCH OVER 20 YEARS

Since the beginning of 2010 to the end of 2022, we have published over 350 publications, covering over 30 different themes related to city development; from municipal finance to transit-oriented development, township economics to urban safety, and long-term planning to effective resource management. The scale and variety of the research produced is prolific.

The SACN's flagship products are the State of the Cities Reports, including the sector reports on the State of City Finances and the State of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in South African cities. These publications are the SACN's primary publications and, in the case of the State of the Cities Report, the publication is seen as an industry benchmark which is now being followed by others in the local government space. These publications have impacted on the positive perception of SACN as a thought leader in city development. The SOCR has indeed become a 'franchise' product of the SACN. This is a proud achievement for the SACN.

Knowledge publications are not just research reports, but go beyond this to provide guidance on leading practice, recording experiences and lessons learnt by the municipalities as well as making recommendations for future city development strategies, plans and programmes to ensure the research has real-world impact.



SADHNA BHANA

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR AT
SACN FOR 15 YEARS

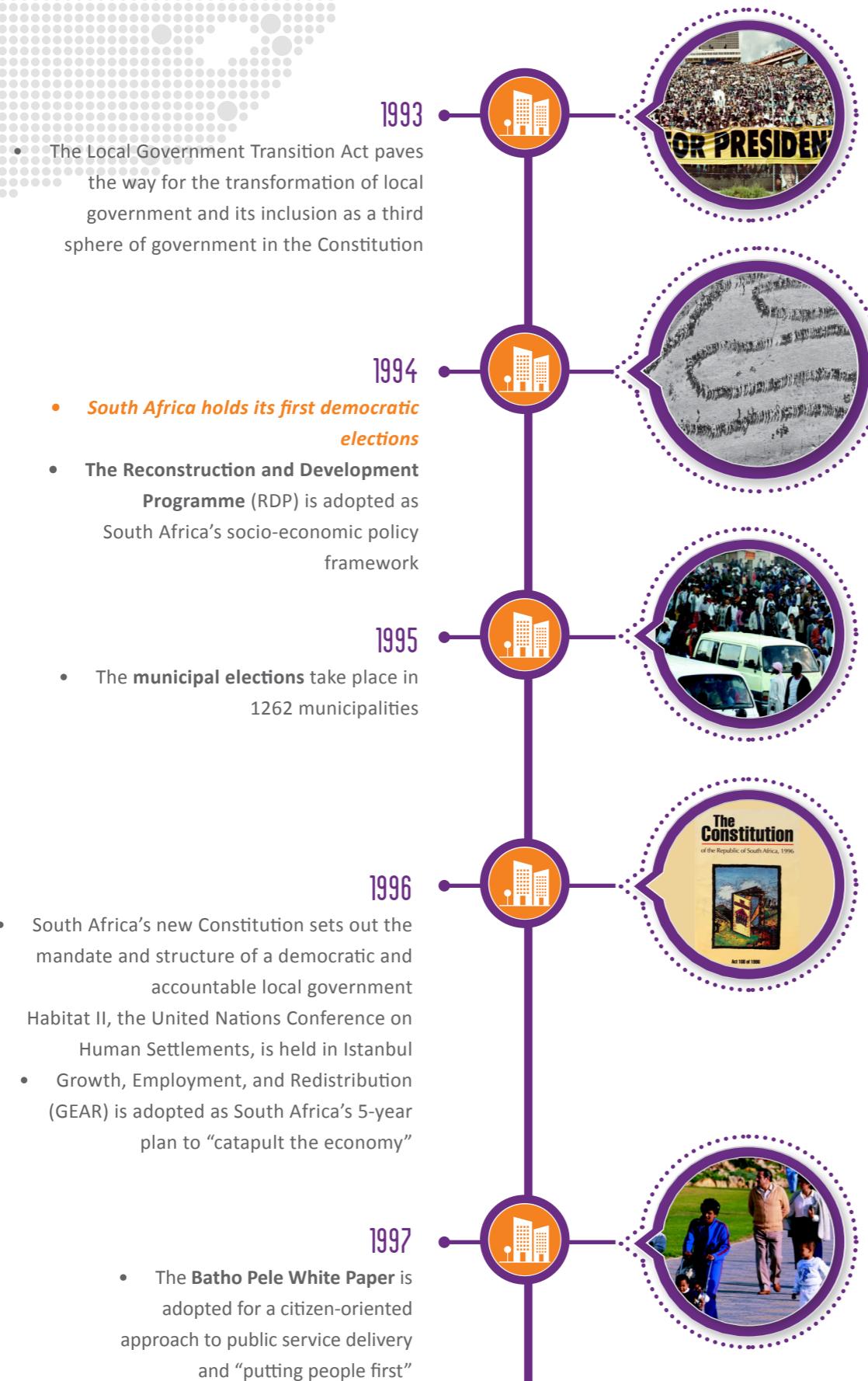


SIPHELELE NGOBESI

RESEARCHER AT SACN AND
CHAMPION OF THE URBAN SAFETY
SUB-PROGRAMME

1993–2001

PRE-SACN AND THE EARLY DAYS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA



1998

- The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) is established
- The Municipal Structures Act establishes metropolitan, district and local municipalities
- The **White Paper on Local Government** defines the policy of developmental local government
- Municipal Demarcation Act** provides for criteria and procedures for the determination of municipal boundaries by an independent authority

1999

- The Municipal Demarcation Board is established to oversee the redrawing of municipal boundaries
- A "wall-to-wall" system of local government is adopted, to tackle the apartheid legacies of spatial distortion, by disintegrating the boundaries between the previous white cities and the black 'homelands'

2000

- The First Local Government elections are held.**
- Local authorities are consolidated into metros, districts and local municipalities (284 in total)
- The Municipal Systems Act affirms municipal autonomy, introduces integrated development plans and regulates public participation
- The first Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) are prepared by local governments

2001

- From 2000, local government was radically transformed by: The creation of "wall-to-wall" municipalities, as 843 municipal structures were amalgamated into 283 new municipalities (now 278 in total)
- A broadening of the local government mandate (as per the Constitution)
- The establishment of new governance structures based on an executive mayor and mayoral committee
- New administrative and financial management systems (as required by the Municipal Systems Act)

This transformation is ongoing. While the policy, legislation and structures may be in place, municipalities are still evolving.

2002-2005

ESTABLISHING SACN

2002
SACN is established to complement the DPLG (now COGTA) and SALGA, to provide a more direct and meaningful platform for the larger cities to interact and share knowledge and experiences

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development is held in Johannesburg

2003

- Municipal Finance Management Act** (MFMA) establishes clear, uniform standards of good governance and financial management
- Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act** establishes a framework for houses of traditional leaders; to provide for the functions and roles of traditional leaders
- The **Expanded Public Works Programme** (EPWP) is born seeking to create additional work opportunities through existing state expenditure

SACN HIGHLIGHTS

- The first SACN reference groups are established

2004

- The Comprehensive Housing Plan (**Breaking New Ground**) sets out the basis for creating sustainable human settlements
- South Africa commits itself to the **Millennium Development Goals** aimed at halving unemployment and poverty and eradicating service delivery backlogs by 2014
- The **Municipal Infrastructure Grant** is aimed at fast-tracking improved service delivery from municipalities, focusing on improved water provision, sanitation, roads, solid waste and lighting.



2006

ESTABLISHING A PRACTICE OF STATE OF CITY REPORTING

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 7

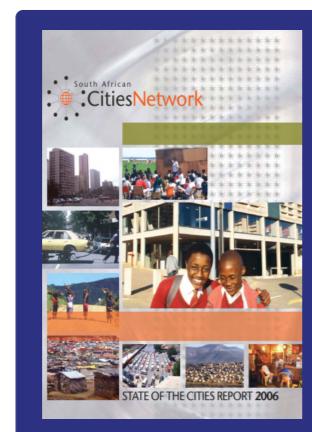
- The second local government elections are held



- The National Spatial Development Perspective requires each sphere of government to undertake rigorous analysis of the spatial economy



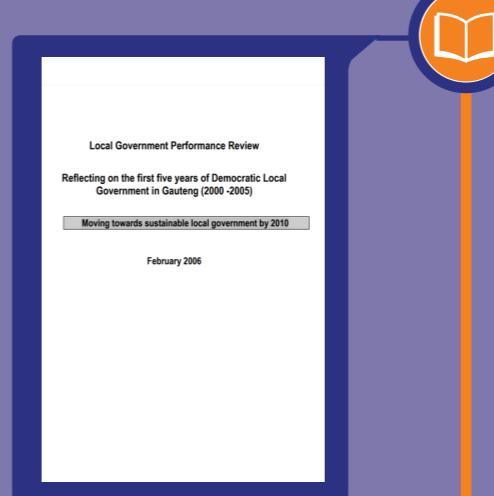
- The Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant (NDPG) is made available for funding neighbourhood development projects



STATE OF CITIES REPORT

- Key Message: The apartheid form remains largely unchanged*
- Programmatic Area: All*
- SOCR 2006 looks at what has been achieved in cities during the first municipal term of office under the new municipal dispensation. "The period 2000-2005 was a time of far-reaching change for South Africa's cities. Cities are generally much better off than in 2000, and a firm foundation has been established for improved performance over the next term. Even though much has been achieved, old problems remain unsolved and new issues continually present themselves."*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-cities-report/>*

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW

- Programmatic Area: Well-Governed Cities*
- Theme: Urban Governance*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/local-government-performance-review/>*



SACN HIGHLIGHTS

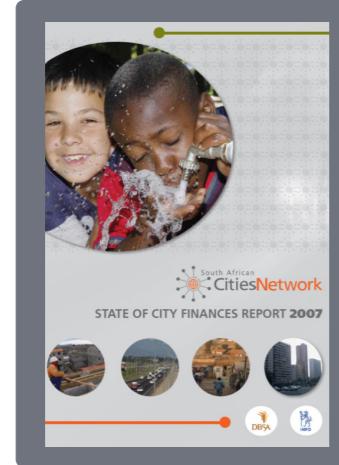
- The second SOCR is published
- The Local Economic Development Information Exchange Project Symposium is held in Buffalo City
- The first State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report is published by the members of SACN's Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG)

2007

SACN CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF KNOWLEDGE SHARING

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 5

- Integrated Development Plans are adopted by all municipalities



STATE OF CITY FINANCES REPORT

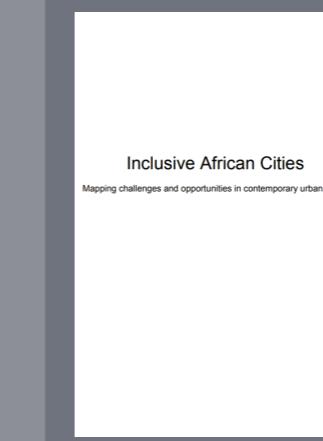
- Programmatic Area: Well-Governed Cities
- Theme: Municipal Finance
- This document seeks to tell the story of the financing of the largest city governments in South Africa. The research undertaken in compiling this document, based to a large degree on audited financial results and other well-founded evidence, indicates that, while there are significant challenges, the country's key cities are now increasingly financially secure.
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-city-finances-2007/>

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INCLUSIVE AFRICAN CITIES: MAPPING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CONTEMPORARY URBAN AFRICA

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Inclusive Urban Development
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/inclusive-african-cities-mapping-challenges-and-opportunities-in-contemporary-urban-africa/>



SACN HIGHLIGHTS

- SACN enters a partnership with DBSA and IMFO in developing a **State of City Finances Report**
- SACN facilitates a dialogue of political and administrative leadership on city development strategies
- SACN with DPLG develops and launches the **Framework for an Integrated Local Government Response to HIV and Aids**
- The SACN knowledge-sharing model is presented at a conference on **Knowledge Management** in the Public Sectors
- SACN jointly hosts **Inclusive Cities Conference** with DBSA, the HSRC, Wits, the City of Johannesburg and Urban LandMark.

2008

A TIME OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS

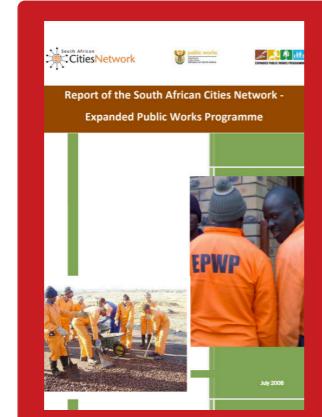
NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 5

- An outbreak of **xenophobic violence** against foreign migrants occurs across cities

- South Africa experiences its first **recession** in 17 years which significantly increases unemployment and reduces tax revenues to the State

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:

- The world is hit by a global financial and **economic crisis**



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME 2008

- Programmatic Area: Productive Cities*
- Theme: Expanded Public Works Programme*
- This first-of-its-kind report comprises an input on the progress in implementing the Expanded Public Works Programme by the nine member cities of the SACN and other urban Municipalities.*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/expanded-public-works-programme/>*



2009

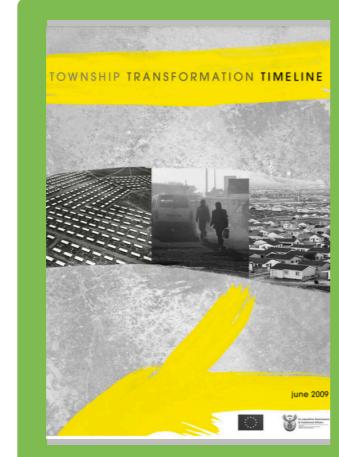
A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC RECESSION

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 15

- The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) replaces the DPLG as custodian of cooperative governance

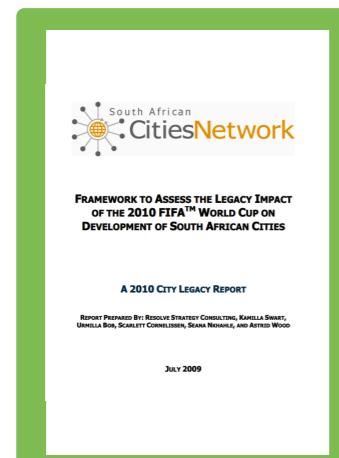
- South Africa is hit hard: job losses, demonstrations around service delivery, and a recession from 2008 to 2009

- The National Land Transport Act for transport devolution sees local government as best placed to drive more effective and efficient public transport networks



TOWNSHIP TRANSFORMATION TIMELINE

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Township Development
- The Township Transformation Timeline provides an overview of the history of the evolution of Townships since 1900 and the lessons that can be learnt for the future.
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/township-transformation-timeline/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/township-transformation-timeline/)



FRAMEWORK TO ASSESS THE LEGACY IMPACT OF THE 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

- Programmatic Area: Well-Governed Cities
- Theme: Urban Governance
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/framework-to-assess-the-legacy-impact-of-the-2010-fifa-world-cup-on-development-of-south-african-cities/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/framework-to-assess-the-legacy-impact-of-the-2010-fifa-world-cup-on-development-of-south-african-cities/)

cooperative gover
& traditional affairs

Department:
Cooperative Governance and Tradition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2010

FIFA WORLD CUP COMES TO SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 8

- 2010 FIFA World Cup is hosted in South Africa



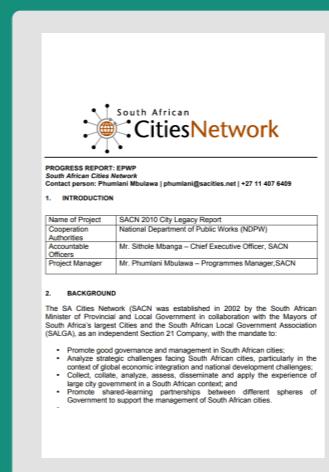
SECURING MUNICIPAL FINANCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Programmatic Area: Well-Governed Cities
- Theme: Municipal finance
- This publication is based on presentations made during a workshop on Sustainable Municipal Finance in Southern Africa.
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/securing-municipal-finance-in-southern-africa/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/securing-municipal-finance-in-southern-africa/)



- Prior to the FIFA Soccer World Cup, there is massive spending on infrastructure: new stadiums and transport initiatives (Gautrain, bus rapid transit systems, airport expansion)

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GREEN ECONOMY SUMMIT REPORT

- Programmatic Area: Sustainable and Resilient Cities
- Theme: Green Economy
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/green-economy-summit-report/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/green-economy-summit-report/)

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME: PROGRESS REPORT

- Programmatic Area: Productive Cities
- Theme: Expanded Public Works Programme
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/expanded-public-works-programme-progress-report-multiple-downloads/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/expanded-public-works-programme-progress-report-multiple-downloads/)

SACN HIGHLIGHTS

SACN's 3rd Annual Conference is held in Nelson Mandela Bay



The Global Report on Human Settlements is launched and co-hosted by the SACN



A series of Infrastructure Dialogues is co-hosted by the SACN, the Business Trust and the Development Bank of South Africa

SACN is hosted at the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro

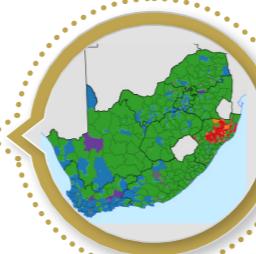
SACN attends a Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency study tour in Spain sponsored by the Royal Danish Embassy

2011

A YEAR OF LOCAL ELECTIONS AND STATE-OF-CITY REPORTING

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 3

- Third local government elections are held



- Buffalo City and Mangaung are upgraded to become metropolitan municipalities

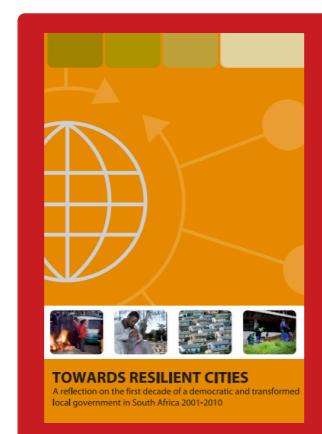


- The Cities Support Programme (CSP) is set up within the National Treasury, as an intergovernmental platform for urban support and reform



INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:

- The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was successfully held in eThekweni

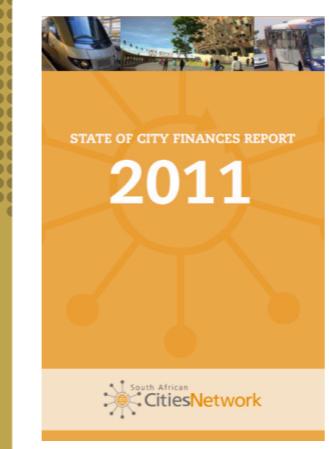


STATE OF CITIES REPORT

- Key Message: Cities are resilient but face key pressures and vulnerabilities requiring interventions and support
- Programmatic Area: All
- "Through this Third Edition of the State of South African Cities Report, we can safely conclude that, through improved and differentiated support, our cities will become spaces of socio-political and, more crucially, economic growth. We know that many more challenges lie ahead, most of which will require space-specific responses."
- <https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-south-african-cities-report-2011-towards-resilient-cities/>

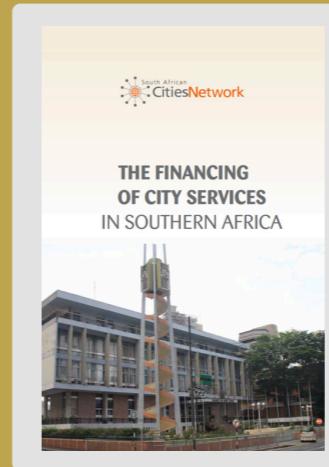


22



STATE OF CITY FINANCES REPORT

- Programmatic Area: Well-Governed Cities
- Theme: Municipal Finance
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/guide-to-the-state-of-the-cities-finances-2011/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/guide-to-the-state-of-the-cities-finances-2011/)



THE FINANCING OF CITY SERVICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Programmatic Area: Well-Governed Cities
- Theme: Municipal Finance
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-financing-of-city-services-in-southern-africa/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-financing-of-city-services-in-southern-africa/)

SACN HIGHLIGHTS

- The third State of Cities Report is published and launched in Johannesburg
- SACN hosts the Informal City exhibition and launch
- A formal response to the draft Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill (SPLUMB) is submitted to the Department of Rural and Land Affairs
- SACN moderates sessions at UCLG Urban Strategic Planning Commission and leads the delegation from South African cities



23

2012

OUR FUTURE 'MAKE IT WORK': THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS DRAFTED NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 22

- The National Development Plan (NDP) is adopted as the long-term framework to set the country along the path to reduce poverty and inequality by 2030

- The National Infrastructure Plan is adopted to create a foundation for achieving the NDP's vision of inclusive growth

- The Built Environment Performance Plan (BEPP) is first introduced as an eligibility requirement in respect to the Urban Settlements Development Grant

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:

- The UN Climate Change Conference in Qatar agrees to extend the Kyoto Protocol



SECONDARY CITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA: THE START OF A CONVERSATION

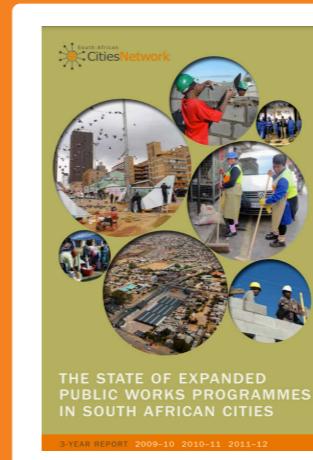
- Programmatic Area: Productive Cities
- Theme: Intermediary Cities
- Secondary cities play a distinct and specialised role in national life, often acting as catalysts for development in their regions, alleviating demographic pressure from a country's metropolitan areas and, arguably, offering a better quality of life than densely populated urban conurbations. The principal aim of this publication is to act as a catalyst for debate and, hopefully, to stimulate further research into this relatively neglected subject in the urban agenda.
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/secondary-cities-in-south-africa-the-start-of-a-conversation/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/secondary-cities-in-south-africa-the-start-of-a-conversation/)

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NAIROBI FIELD TRIP REPORTS

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Housing
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/nairobi-field-trip-reports-2012/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/nairobi-field-trip-reports-2012/)



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

- Programmatic Area: Productive Cities
- Theme: Expanded Public Works Programme
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-the-expanded-public-works-programmes-in-south-african-cities/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-the-expanded-public-works-programmes-in-south-african-cities/)



SACN HIGHLIGHTS

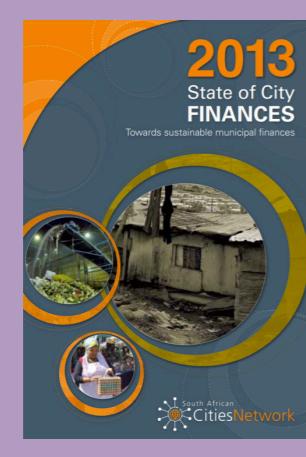
- SACN celebrates its 10-year anniversary
- The programme of work on **intermediary cities** commences
- SACN signs its EPWP co-operation agreement with the National Department of Public Works
- SACN participates in the **SAPI Planning Africa** exhibition

2013

AN INCREASED FOCUS ON THE CENTRALITY OF CITIES IN SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

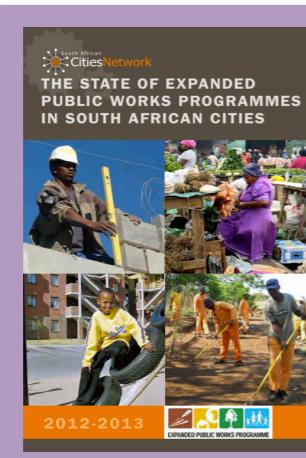
NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 28

- The Spatial Planning and Land-Use Management Act (SPLUMA) provides for the devolution of a range of functions to municipalities, overseen by national government, and a cooperative approach to strategic spatial planning and land-use management



STATE OF CITY FINANCES REPORT

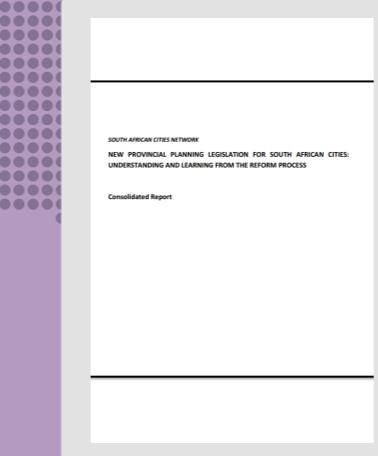
- Programmatic area: Well-governed cities.
- Theme: Municipal finance
- The overall theme of the State of City Finances 2012 is sustainable finance for South African cities. "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs and has three dimensions: social, economic and environmental."
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-city-finances-2013/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-city-finances-2013/)



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

- Programmatic area: Productive Cities
- Theme: Expanded Public Works Programme
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-expanded-public-works-programmes-in-south-african-cities-2012-2013/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-expanded-public-works-programmes-in-south-african-cities-2012-2013/)

20
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NEW PROVINCIAL PLANNING LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Programmatic area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Planning Legislation
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/new-provincial-planning-legislation-in-south-african-cities/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/new-provincial-planning-legislation-in-south-african-cities/)



THE SPACE ECONOMY: AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

- Programmatic area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Spatial Development Planning
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-space-economy/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-space-economy/)



SACN HIGHLIGHTS

- The SACN continues to support its member cities to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change through its partnership with the Local Government Programme for Climate Change
- A Reference Group on **Waste Management** is established
- A series of **knowledge exchange workshops** take place with India and Brazil
- An international plenary session on **Caring Cities** is organised for Metropolis Annual Meeting

2014

TOWARDS INTEGRATED, TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

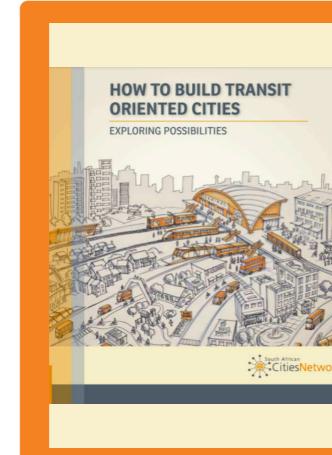
NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 31

- All metros outline ambitious plans for restructuring their built environments, based on the concepts of **integrated transit-oriented** development as articulated in the Urban Networks Strategy



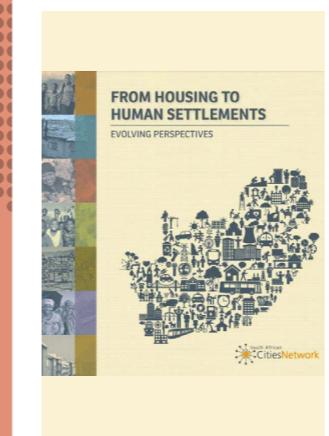
THE SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION OF CITIES CONFERENCE

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Inclusive Urban Development
- "To overcome the legacy of apartheid, cities in South Africa must spatially transform and restructure. The National Development Plan outlines the principles: spatial justice, spatial sustainability, spatial resilience, spatial quality and spatial efficiency. But, what does this mean at the city level?"
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-spatial-transformation-of-cities-conference/>



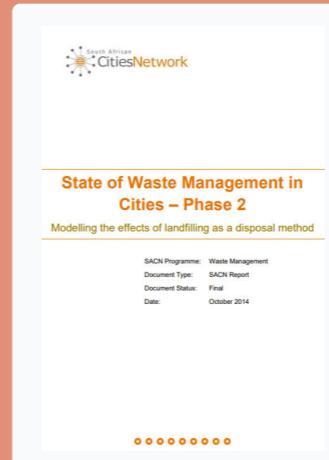
HOW TO BUILD TRANSIT-ORIENTED CITIES

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Transit-Oriented Development
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/how-to-build-transit-oriented-cities/>



FROM HOUSING TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Housing
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/from-housing-to-human-settlements/>



STATE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT IN CITIES

- Programmatic Area: Sustainable and Resilient Cities
- Theme: Waste Management
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-waste-management-in-cities-2013-2014/>

SACN HIGHLIGHTS

The **Spatial Transformation of Cities Conference** is held in partnership with the City of Johannesburg

At the **World Urban Forum** in Medellin, the SACN presents sessions on African urban policy and urban safety

SACN participates in the **Climate Change Conference** in Lima

2015

A GLOBAL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 34

- The SACN works closely with CoGTA to develop South Africa's **urban policy framework**

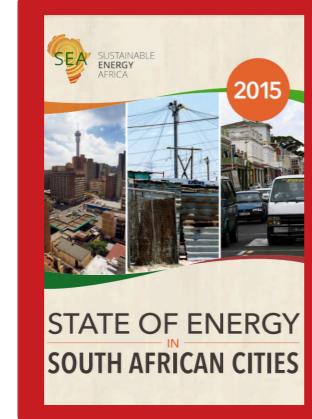


- The 7th Edition of the **AFRI-CITIES SUMMIT** is held in Johannesburg



INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:

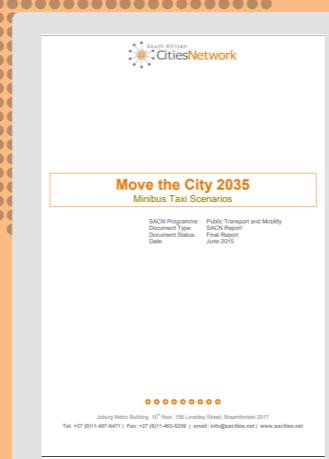
- The 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) are set up by the UN General Assembly
- The **Paris Agreement** is adopted as an international treaty on climate change
- The **Sendai Framework** for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is adopted at the Third UN World Conference



STATE OF ENERGY IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

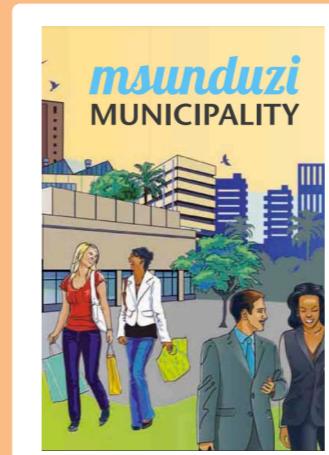
- Programmatic area: Sustainable and Resilient Cities
- Theme: Sustainable Energy
- This third State of Energy in South African Cities report examines the sustainable energy development path of 18 key cities in South Africa. It finds that, overall, cities have slightly increased their energy consumption and related emissions.
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-energy-in-south-african-cities-2015/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-energy-in-south-african-cities-2015/)

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MOVE THE CITY 2035: MINIBUS TAXI SCENARIOS

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Public Transport
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/move-the-city-2035-minibus-taxi-scenarios/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/move-the-city-2035-minibus-taxi-scenarios/)



MSUNDUZI CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Programmatic area: Innovative Cities
- Theme: Urban Policy
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/msunduzi-city-development-strategy/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/msunduzi-city-development-strategy/)



SACN HIGHLIGHTS

- The 4th **South African Urban Conference** is convened in Tshwane

- "My City Through My Lens" Instagram competition is organised as part of the Urban Conference

- The first SA **Township Economies** Research Roundtable is held

- SACN conducts its formative evaluation of the its **Strategic Plan**

- SACN and SALGA launch the digital platform, **City Conversation**

2016

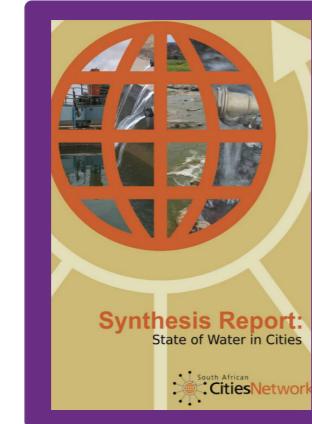
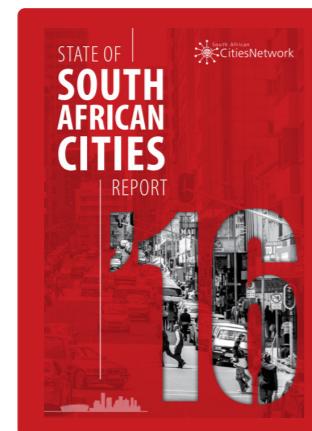
THE ADOPTION OF THE IUDF: A NATIONAL VISION FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 53

South Africa's fourth **local government elections** are held resulting in the emergence of multiparty coalition local governments in several major municipalities

Cabinet approves the **Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF)**, South Africa's urban policy framework aimed at managing urbanisation and achieving economic development, job creation and improved living conditions for its people

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:

The **New Urban Agenda (NUA)** is adopted at the United Nations Conference for a shared global vision for a better and more sustainable future

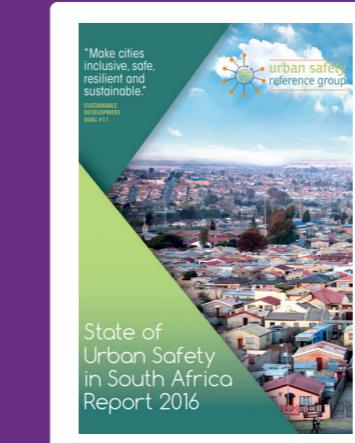
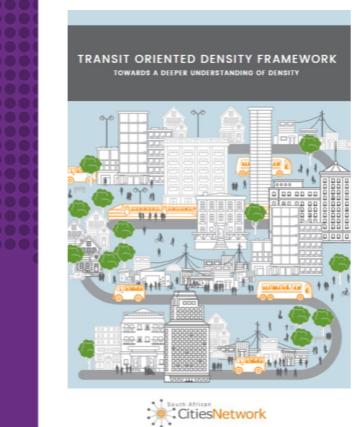


STATE OF CITIES REPORT

- Key Message: Cities have been effective drivers of local and national development, but all actors have to pull together.
- Programmatic Area: All
- The fourth edition of the SoCR recognises the importance of cities as engines of national economic growth and places of social cohesion. It places cities at the centre of transformative development
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-south-african-cities-report-2016/>

STATE OF WATER IN CITIES

- Programmatic Area: Sustainable and Resilient Cities
- Theme: Water Management
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-water-in-cities/>



THE TRANSIT ORIENTED DENSITY FRAMEWORK

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Transit-Oriented Development
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-transit-oriented-density-framework/>

THE STATE OF URBAN SAFETY IN SOUTH AFRICA REPORT 2016

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Urban Safety
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-urban-safety-in-south-africa-report-2016/>

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SACN HIGHLIGHTS



The fourth State of Cities Report is released along with the People's Guide

SACN is key in the development of the IUDF policy framework

The first State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report is published by the members of SACN's Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG)

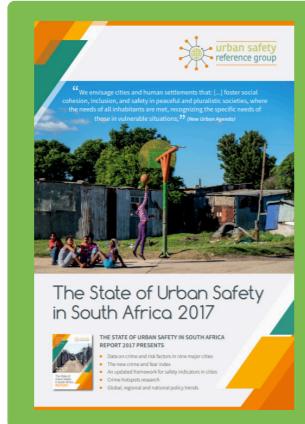
33

2017

A FOCUS ON CITY DATA

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 21

- The SA Cities Open Data Almanac (**SCODA**) is launched
- South Africa aligns the priorities of the IUDF with those of the NUA



STATE OF URBAN SAFETY IN SOUTH AFRICA

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities*
- Theme: Urban Safety*
- The 2017 report is the second in a series of annual urban safety reports that aim to incrementally present, analyse and assess city-level crime and violence trends, to enable better urban safety planning, development and implementation. The report highlights the USRG's work aimed at encouraging greater learning, exchange and cooperation around safety issues by South Africa's largest metros.*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-urban-safety-in-south-african-2017-flyer/>*



SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION: ARE INTERMEDIATE CITIES DIFFERENT?

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities*
- Theme: Intermediary Cities*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/spatial-transformation-are-intermediate-cities-different/>*

20
YEARS
OF CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

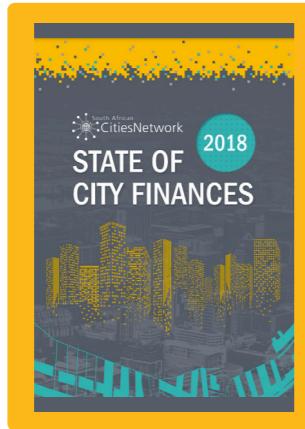


2018

THE SACN SECRETARIAT GROWS AND EXPANDS ITS FUNCTIONS

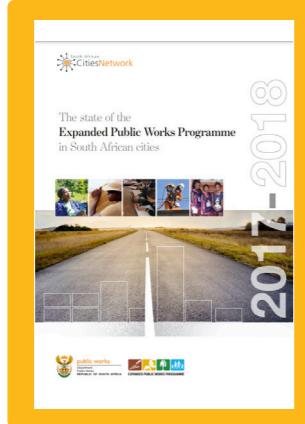
NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 17

- Jacob Zuma resigns as president and Cyril Ramaphosa is elected as the new president of South Africa



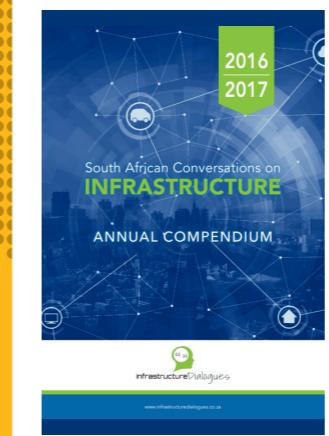
STATE OF CITY FINANCES

- Programmatic Area: Well-governed Cities
- Theme: Municipal Finance
- The theme of this year's State of City Finances Report is that citizens and cities are in financial crisis. Immediate challenges to municipal financial health include inadequate finance for delivering required infrastructure and services, and the affordability of municipal services for consumers in a worsening macro-economic environment. This report offers some recommendations and innovative suggestions for tackling the challenges facing cities, especially systemic issues.
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-city-finances-2018/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-city-finances-2018/)



THE STATE OF THE EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

- Programmatic Area: Productive Cities
- Theme: Expanded Public Works Programme
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-the-expanded-public-works-programme-in-south-african-cities-2017-18/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-the-expanded-public-works-programme-in-south-african-cities-2017-18/)



LONG RANGE PLANNING IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

- Programmatic Area: Well-Governed Cities
- Theme: Urban Infrastructure
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/infrastructure-dialogues-2017/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/infrastructure-dialogues-2017/)



URBAN LAND DIALOGUE SERIES

- Programmatic Area: Well-governed Cities
- Theme: Urban Land
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/urban-land-dialogue-series-2018/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/urban-land-dialogue-series-2018/)



SACN HIGHLIGHTS

Greater emphasis is placed on strengthening governance, research and knowledge application, and operations

The Urban Land Series is launched, guided by the IUDF

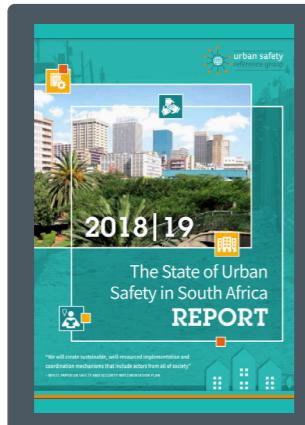
SACN produces its first practice guide on city development strategies

2019

THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL: AN ALL-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO PLANNING AND DELIVERY

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 20

- The District Development Model (DDM) is introduced as a platform to improve cooperation between the spheres and entities of government in delivering services and to support the developmental outcomes of local government
- The City of Johannesburg becomes the first city to adopt an **Inclusionary Housing Policy** for the promotion of developer-led affordable housing

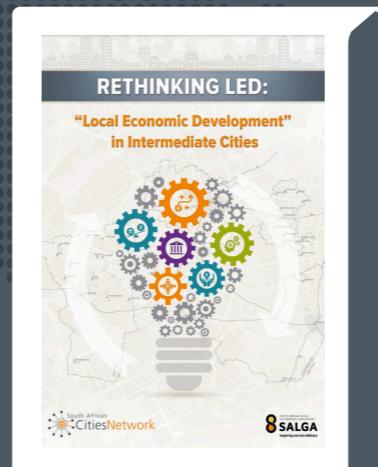


THE STATE OF URBAN SAFETY IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES REPORT

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Urban Safety
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-urban-safety-in-south-african-cities-report-2018-19/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-urban-safety-in-south-african-cities-report-2018-19/)

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YEARS
OF CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH



RETHINKING LED: "LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" IN INTERMEDIATE CITIES

- Programmatic Area: Productive Cities
- Theme: Economic Development
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/rethinking-led-local-economic-development-in-intermediate-cities/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/rethinking-led-local-economic-development-in-intermediate-cities/)



INFRASTRUCTURE DIALOGUES COMPENDIUM

- Programmatic Area: Well-governed Cities
- Theme: Urban Infrastructure
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/infrastructure-dialogues-2019/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/infrastructure-dialogues-2019/)



SACN HIGHLIGHTS

eThekini hosts United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) Conference – the largest gathering of mayors, presidents of associations, councilors, and local and regional practitioners from around the world

The South African **Urban Conference** is hosted as part of Urban Week in eThekini

2020

COVID-19: EXPOSING THE EXISTING FAULT LINES

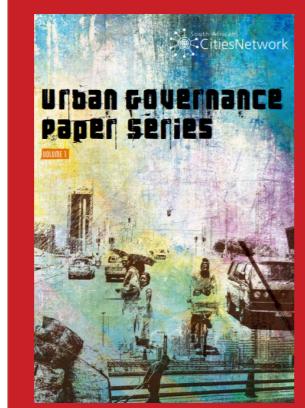
NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 30

- President Ramaphosa declares a **national state of disaster** in response to COVID-19 in South Africa

- The Gauteng Township Economic Development Bill is passed

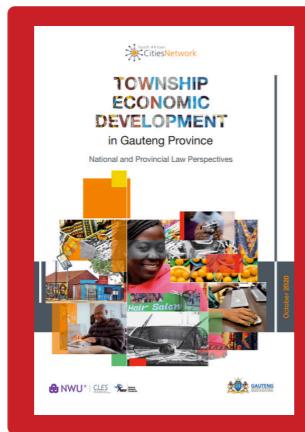
INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:

- COVID-19 global pandemic results in cities in a state of emergency and flux, confronted by a spectrum of social, economic, financial and governance challenges



URBAN GOVERNANCE PAPER SERIES: VOLUME 1

- Programmatic Area: Well-governed Cities*
- Theme: Urban Governance*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/urban-governance-paper-series-volume-1/>*



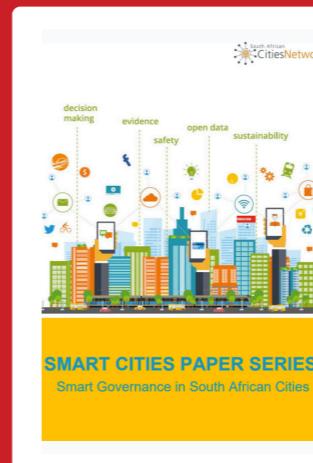
TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GAUTENG PROVINCE

- Programmatic Area: Productive Cities*
- Theme: Township Economic Development*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/township-economic-development-in-gauteng-province/>*



BUILT ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATION PRACTICE REPORT

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities*
- Theme: Inclusive Urban Development*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/built-environment-integration-practice-report/>*



SMART CITIES PAPER SERIES

- Programmatic Area: Innovative Cities*
- Theme: Smart Cities*
- Link: <https://www.sacities.net/publication/smart-cities-paper-series/>*



SACN HIGHLIGHTS

The **Urban Festival** is held virtually through online engagements, with the theme: Empowering the Civic

SACN supports the City of Johannesburg in developing its **Environmental Sustainable Strategy (ESS)** and hosts a **Climate Action Plan Round Table**

The Built Environment Integration Task Team releases **Citopoly boardgame**

A series of **Smart Cities Roundtable discussions** is held

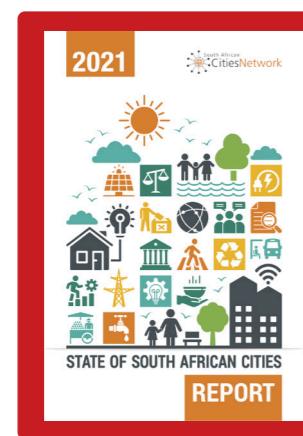
2021

THE NEW NORMAL™ AND RECOVERING FROM THE SHOCK OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

NO. OF PUBLICATIONS: 38

- The fifth local government elections are held; there is no outright winner in 5 metros (Joburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Nelson Mandela Bay and eThekweni) necessitating coalition arrangements

- Kwa-Zulu Natal and parts of Gauteng experience a wave of **civil unrest**



STATE OF CITIES REPORT

- Key Message:** Cooperative governance and *all-of-society practice* is integral to service delivery and overcoming challenges
- Programmatic Area:** All
- The SoCR** is the SACN's flagship output that presents a five-year perspective on the performance and analysis of the conditions of South Africa's largest cities. The report emphasises the developing narrative that good urban governance is governance that allows space for participatory planning and decision-making, to ensure that *all-of-society views and priorities* are central to the way cities are run.
- Link:** <https://www.sacities.net/publication/state-of-south-african-cities-report-2021/>



THE RULES OF THE GAME

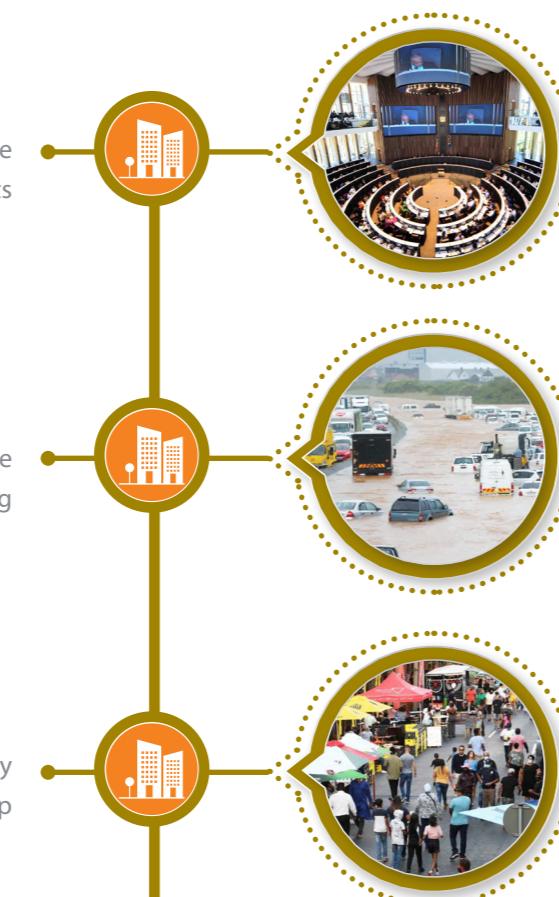
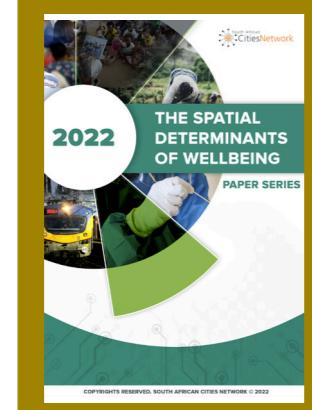
- Programmatic Area:** Inclusive Cities
- Theme:** Urban Governance
- Link:** <https://www.sacities.net/publication/rules-of-the-game/>



2022

MARKING 20 YEARS OF URBAN RESEARCH

- Cities continue to struggle to navigate the instability of coalition governments
- Kwa-Zulu Natal experiences destructive and fatal flooding
- Covid-19 regulations are lifted and city activity and travel opens up

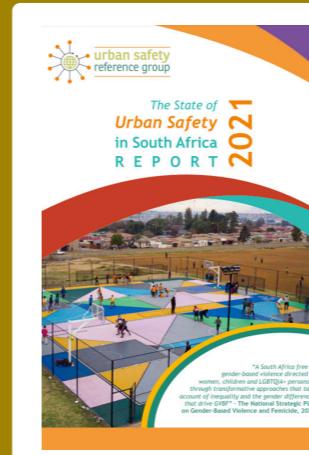
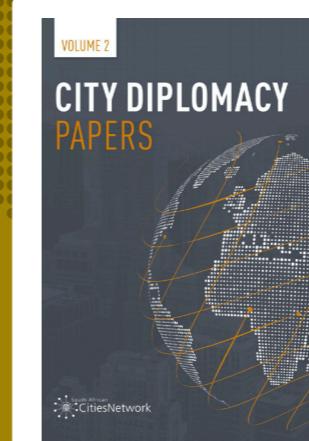


THE SPATIAL DETERMINANTS OF WELLBEING: PAPER SERIES

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Urban Wellbeing
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/spatial-determinants-of-wellbeing-paper-series/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/spatial-determinants-of-wellbeing-paper-series/)

SHOWCASE OF SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

- Programmatic Area: Sustainable and Resilient Cities
- Theme: Sustainable Development
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/showcase-of-sustainability-practices-in-south-africa/](https://www.sacities.net/showcase-of-sustainability-practices-in-south-africa/)



CITY DIPLOMACY PAPERS: VOLUME 2

- Programmatic Area: Well-Governed Cities
- Theme: City Diplomacy
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/city-diplomacy-papers-vol-2/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/city-diplomacy-papers-vol-2/)

THE STATE OF URBAN SAFETY IN SOUTH AFRICA REPORT 2021

- Programmatic Area: Inclusive Cities
- Theme: Urban Safety
- [Link: https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-urban-safety-in-south-africa-report-2021/](https://www.sacities.net/publication/the-state-of-urban-safety-in-south-africa-report-2021/)

SACN HIGHLIGHTS

- SACN completes its **City Engagement** process to steer the 2021-2026 programme of work
- A new reference group, the **International Relations Forum**, is launched
- SACN delegates attend **UCLG** in Daejeon, South Korea
- The **Urban Festival** is held in Joburg, under the theme Transforming Cities through Research and Practice

SACN CELEBRATES ITS 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

2022

MARKING 20 YEARS OF URBAN RESEARCH



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CONCLUSION AND VOTE OF THANKS



The past 20 years have seen SACN produce a remarkable amount of research - in both breadth of research themes as well as depth of insight. None of this would have been possible without an outstanding body of SACN alumni; from interns, to researchers to support staff, the outputs featured in this Compendium showcase the efforts of the entire organisation.

The quality and scale of research would also not have been achieved without the dedicated support of contributors, partners and funders. Primarily, the participating cities, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Department of Public Works and National Treasury have been integral to this body of work. The funding and research support of international organisations such as AFD and GIZ as well as the DBSA, has allowed SACN to provide this significant contribution to South African urban research.

It is clear that the SACN is at a critical stage of its growth as an organisation with a distinct competitive advantage around knowledge co-creation and dissemination, as well as urban advocacy and lobbying, regarding governance and local government in the South African context. The 2020/2021 SACN Review indicates that while SACN is producing useful resources, it needs to do more to ensure these are being utilised by the target stakeholders.

To that regard our Strategic Business Plan launched in 2021 includes a high-level, five-year implementation roadmap that ensures the organisation moves incrementally in the intended strategic direction. Under the theme of "review, engage and define", the aim of 2021-2022 was for the SACN to focus its efforts on strengthening relationships with cities and deeply embedding itself in cities. Based on the insights gained from this city engagement process, going forward stakeholders can expect to see a new focus on policy advocacy and a city-led research agenda.

To this end, SACN dedicates itself to continuing to produce accurate and valuable city research to ensure that South Africa's urban spaces achieve the vision of becoming "sustainable, productive, inclusive, innovative and well-governed cities".



NOSIPOH HLATSHWAYO
SACN'S EXECUTIVE MANAGER:
PROGRAMMES

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NOTES



