

Towards a sustainable livelihoods strategy for the City of Cape Town

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Purpose and scope of the strategy

- The purpose of this strategy is to provide a framework for targeted efforts by the CoCT to support sustainable livelihoods with an emphasis on the use and remediation of the natural and cultural environment.
- As a strategy linked to IMEP (2003), the strategy applies to the City as a whole, but specific implementation responsibilities rest with ERM.

Background and context (1)

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base (DFID, 1999).

SL as boundary term

Belonging to no discipline in particular, livelihoods approaches can allow a bridging of divides, allowing different people to work together – particularly across the natural and social sciences... 'livelihoods' has thus emerged as a boundary term (Gieryn 1999), something that brings disparate perspectives together...

Scoones (2009)

Background and context (2)

Livelihoods based on natural, social, physical, human, financial and political capital assets



Complex, inter-related natural systems providing natural resources and ecosystem services (water and drainage, materials, energy, land and soil, living resources)

Background and context (3): existing CoCT work

- Origins of current ERM work on sustainable livelihoods informed by coastal White Paper
- Lessons learnt include inherent limitations to emphasis on project-level interventions
- All IMEP-related strategies have bearing on SL: biodiversity, coastal zone management, cultural heritage, energy & climate change, env'l education
- SL principles also underlie high-level, cross-cutting programmes: IDP, City Development Strategy, Urban Renewal Programme, VPUU
- NB links with Economic & Human Development Strategy, esp. Business Support and Urban Agriculture

Background and context (4): status & trends

- NB limitations to available information on SL.
- Most poor households live in informal settlements in a cycle of poverty based on food insecurity, ill health and unemployment, aggravated by natural hazards. Basic services and welfare support are key to SL.
- Deleterious trends with regard to energy, water, waste, land & soil, and biodiversity, but significant opportunity for innovation and large-scale investment.

Draft Vision

Cape Town is a global leader in urban development that links environmental stewardship with poverty alleviation and wealth creation. Poor people in Cape Town enjoy continuously improving access to the direct and indirect benefits provided by the sustainable use and management of the City's unique natural environment. This includes tangible increases in incomes and job opportunities, an improved sense of wellbeing, and enhanced food security. They are effectively protected from natural hazards, such as fire and floods, and benefit from the City's mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Principles and premises

- Prioritise the poor
- Ensure sustainable use and remediation of the natural environment
- Facilitate participation and partnership with affected communities
- Enhance collaboration within government and with civil society and business stakeholders
- Maximise impact of public sector expenditure by identifying points of leverage, including targeted value chain support and procurement
 - Understand challenges faced by incipient enterprises
 - Beware of unintended consequences (e.g. of formalisation)
 - Recognise importance of free basic services and welfare

Cross-cutting objectives and activities

1. Develop an integrated approach to community development

- The current approach to community development is sector-specific and uncoordinated, without systematic community participation
- Build upon current innovation initiatives, particularly the Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme and VPUU
- Develop an integrated community development guideline or strategy
- Possible use of nodal approach (e.g., NMBM) to facilitate functional integration and community participation
- Requires appropriate organisational driver, e.g. Service Delivery Integration

Cross-cutting objectives and activities

2. Establish a comprehensive and integrated approach to food security

- Enhance the implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy with improved linkages to land use, water and waste management, business support
- Recognise need for support of food value chains in support of poor people's access to nutrition – i.e. an integrated approach to food security beyond production and welfare
- Work with and in support of existing initiatives, e.g. CT Food Bank, Abalimi
- Develop an integrated food security guideline or strategy

Cross-cutting objectives and activities

3. Value ecosystem services and include natural assets in the City's asset registry

- Better understand and calculate the direct and indirect economic contributions of biodiversity, wetlands, etc in terms of amenity, tourism, property, air and water purification, etc
- Include these in the City's asset registry – with links to an improved land use database – in order to ensure consideration in economic analyses and ongoing maintenance programmes, which can also involve EPWP or related job creation activities

Cross-cutting objectives and activities

4. Further develop holistic, true-cost and progressive tariff model for City services

- Identify all financial and environmental costs throughout the value chain of City services (water, sanitation, waste, electricity, stormwater) and integrate these into tariff pricing models
- Include a *more* progressive rising block tariff structure to enhance social justice
- Include holistic, true-cost pricing model of City services in land use decision-making

Cross-cutting objectives and activities

5. Establish better alignment and co-funding with EPWP

- Recognise opportunities associated with EPWP, as well as problems: 1) insufficient alignment with City strategies and 2) inherent limitations associated with low pay
- Enhance current efforts at alignment through high-level agreements and monitoring
- Joint planning of projects based on co-funding
- Lobby for higher EPWP wages in cities
- Support efforts to develop post-EPWP employment opportunities

Cross-cutting objectives and activities

6. Develop city-wide, nodal approach, linked to identification of implementing agents

- Nodes to be identified on the basis of the eight planning districts
- Use of IAs motivated by need to limit City officials' involvement in day-to-day management of projects
- Identify IAs for three-year implementation cycles based on tender process, with specified selection criteria
- Prioritise NPOs, possibly including targeted organisational development and training programme.

Cross-cutting objectives and activities

7. Establish proactive alignment between relevant City functions and departments, with emphasis on:

- Development facilitation and business support
- Land use planning and management
- Procurement
- Asset management (see objective 3)
- Human resources

Cross-cutting objectives and activities (6)

8. Integrate SL considerations in City's knowledge management and monitoring

- Generate, analyse and make available data about poor people's livelihoods, including role of natural resources in this regard
- Integrate this with vulnerability mapping required by City's Energy and Climate Change Strategy
- Develop integrated approach to vulnerability analysis, including environmental and economic aspects

Cross-cutting objectives and activities

9. Enhance City – civil society interactions, with emphasis on R&D

- Integrate SL considerations in IDP community participation processes
- Develop the Sustainable Livelihoods Network, inviting relevant organisations (e.g. CAPE) and with greater emphasis on R&D associated with SL

Thematic objectives and activities

1. Biodiversity and open space

- Use existing Biological Network to spatially prioritise areas for community involvement, capacity building and job creation, scaling up initiatives such as Cape Flats Nature
- Train and support horticulturalists to plant and maintain trees and food gardens, linked to initiatives such as Abalimi and linked to reduction of carbon footprint
- Promote value-adding industries for terrestrial and marine resources
- Support active stewardship of public open spaces by community groups, possibly linked to EPWP or related initiatives

Thematic objectives and activities

2. Environmental remediation

- Support an effective intergovernmental approach to coordinate and scale up the “Working for...” programmes of national government
- Initiate capacity building programmes for community based organisations to contribute to “Working for...” programmes, as well as other remediation activities
- Link financial support for remediation activities to the costing of environmental services – see cross-cutting objective 3

Thematic objectives and activities

3. Energy

- Scale up energy efficiency programme, including retrofitting of all government buildings
- Provide special investment incentives and “innovation hub” infrastructure for renewable energy industries
- Include carbon pricing models in all financial assessments of land use change and large development proposals

Thematic objectives and activities

4. Waste

- Support the growth of a waste recycling economy by implementing true-cost tariffs for waste to land-fill
- Re-invigorate and expand the IWEX system and existing recycling initiatives based on a public-private collaboration process
- Make use of the NEM: Waste Act to encourage a full life-cycle / product stewardship approach among local industry

Thematic objectives and activities

5. Water, sanitation and drainage

- Link the implementation of the new stormwater management strategy to a proactive process of identifying training and job-creation opportunities, linked to Working for Wetlands, in particular
- Initiate and support adaptive management partnerships with community based organisations for interim management of grey water in informal settlements
- Support the implementation of catchment management strategies in cooperation with adjacent municipalities

Thank you

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