



DATE 28 January 2015
To **The Executive Mayor**
P de Lille

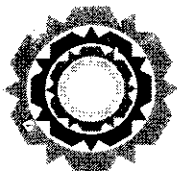
ITEM 01/28/01/15

Dear Madam Mayor,

The **attached** undermentioned Feedback Trip Report is submitted to you for consideration and noting:

**FEEDBACK ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRIP UNDERTAKEN FROM 12 TO 14 OCTOBER 2014
TO ATTEND THE BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT FOR CITIES AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS
2014 IN PYEONGCHANG, GANGWON PROVINCE, SOUTH KOREA**


pp Mrs Renana Razack
Manager: Executive Committee Services
Office of the Executive Director: Compliance and Auxiliary Services



REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

1. ITEM NUMBER F0056

2. SUBJECT

FEEDBACK ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRIP UNDERTAKEN FROM 12 TO 14 OCTOBER 2014 TO ATTEND THE BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT FOR CITIES AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS 2014 IN PYEONGCHANG, GANGWON PROVINCE, SOUTH KOREA

ONDERWERP

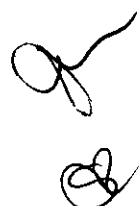
TERUGVOER OOR DIE INTERNASIONALE REIS ONDERNEEM VAN 12 TOT 14 OKTOBER 2014 OM DIE BIODIVERSITEITSPITSBERAAD VIR STEDE EN SUBNASIONALE REGERINGS 2014 IN PYEONGCHANG, GANGWON-PROVINSIE, SUID-KOREA, BY TE WOON

ISIHLOKO

INGXELO EMALUNGA NOHAMBO OLUYA PHESHEYA OLUTHATYATHWE UKUSUKA NGOMHLA WE-12 UKUYA KOWE-14 OKTOBHA 2014 LOKUZIMASA INKOMFA ENGOBUNCWANE BEENTLOBO-NTLOBO ZEZITYALO NEZILWANYANA EZAHLUKENEYO (IBHAYODAYVESITHI) KWIZIXEKO NAKOORHULUMENTE BEZIZWANA 2014 ESE-PYEONGCHANG, KWIPHONDO I-GANGWON, SOUTH KOREA

3. EVENT SUMMARY

EVENT DETAILS	
CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	CONVENTION FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, SUMMIT FOR CITIES AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS
OTHER	TO PARTAKE IN A PANEL DISCUSSION, REPRESENTING THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN, DISCUSSING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE IN ENSURING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL SPACES WITHIN URBAN SETTINGS
DATE	12 – 14 OCTOBER 2014
VENUE	ALPENSIA CONVENTION CENTER
CITY	PYEONGCHANG
COUNTRY	SOUTH KOREA



ATTENDEE DETAILS

NAME AND SURNAME	DESIGNATION
JOHAN VAN DER MERWE	MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING

PROVIDE SUMMARY OF HOST ORGANISATION / CITY

The Convention for Biological Diversity was established at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The three primary goals of the Convention, all of which are relevant to the City, are:

- conservation of biological diversity
- the sustainable use of its components
- fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

The 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention for Biological Diversity (COP 12) took place in Pyeongchang, Gangwon Province, Korea from 3 - 17 October 2014. This Conference, which is held every two years, is regarded as the most significant global event for biodiversity.

The convention secretariat has established a strong basis for promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the convention and participation at the conference, including the following:

- (a) The accelerated rate of urbanization, particularly in developing countries;
- (b) Urban experiences in ecosystem conservation as they strengthen national policies; and
- (c) The critical role by local government in designing and implementing land-use and zoning planning tools which have direct effects on biodiversity.

The 2014 Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments was held in support of, and in parallel with, COP 12. The 2014 Biodiversity Summit was convened in partnership between ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the Secretariat of the CBD and the host, Provincial Government of Gangwon, and was the primary area of involvement for local government leaders, although several other sub-components of COP 12 were also important and provided the opportunity for learning about recent advances in research and implementation in the field.



4. OBJECTIVE

The Mayor of Cape Town was invited to take part in a panel discussion on the topic, the Green Creative Economy – reconciling parallel systems of which we are a part – an opportunity to share some of the important work the City has undertaken in the field in recent years. This responsibility was delegated to myself.

The integration of economics and ecology is key to building a sustainable economy in Cape Town and this session, which focused upon exploring financial mechanisms that benefit biodiversity and governments through instruments such as green procurement, ecological infrastructure and the realisation of ecosystem services benefits, spoke directly to the core work of the City. Green job creation through the EPWP programme, skills development programmes, baboon management and shark spotters' coordination are biodiversity programmes directly linked to the City's economy and were relevant to this session.

5. OUTCOMES

Participation in the ideological Diversity COP 12 and the Summit for Cities and Subnational governments in particular, stood to yield the following benefits to the City:

- Profiling / marketing the City of Cape Town – placing the City at the cutting edge of international research and best practice
- Consolidating City's reputation as a global leader in urban biodiversity management
- Opportunity to build on the City's global position and potentially source funding and other support for key City projects, or provide the basis for such future negotiation

A draft resolution for the Convention of Biological Diversity was distributed amongst delegates and considered an enlightening document to the path ahead. It outlined the necessity to recognise, reiterate, acknowledge and comment the various accords signed by local governments across the globe, to uphold the environmental demands inherent within development. It also challenged officials to support, encourage and assist, where possible, in heralding this cause.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | - | Partnership Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | - | Membership Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | - | Grants Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | - | Memorandum of Understanding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | - | Statement of Intent |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | - | Other |

Even though the City is a member of ICLEI, a process is underway to formalise the relationship between the administration and the organisation so that Cape Town might host a similar Convention on Biodiversity in the very near future



6. ACTIONS REQUIRED

City to continue its growing relationship with ICLEI: a meeting was set up for the 30th of October 2014, to discuss the following:

- Follow-up on the Cities Summit at COP 12,
- Look ahead to UNA and the City's involvement, and the world congress and Urban Nature
- EHCC legacy and Cape Town's opportunity at the world congress in this respect.
- Establishing Cape Town's own biodiversity summit which encourages local participation in discussions of urban conservation
- Using the CBD to further Cape Town's Two River Urban Project
- REXCOM

6.1	<u>Constitutional and Policy Implications</u>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
6.2	<u>Environmental implications</u>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3	<u>Financial Implications</u>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
6.4	<u>Legal Implications</u>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5	<u>Staff Implications</u>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
6.6	<u>Risk Implications</u>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
6.7	<u>Other Services Consulted</u>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) IT BE NOTED

AANBEVEEL dat:

- a) DAARVAN KENNIS GENEEM WORD

KUNDULULWE ukuba:

- a) MAKUQATSHELWE

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION

I partook in a panel discussion which demonstrated the dependence of the economy on biodiversity explored how the economic value of biodiversity might enhance the cause of conservation and sustainable use. The panel, which was made up of economists, biodiversity practitioners, and politicians from across the globe, sought to address the developmental conflict cities universally encounter: to strike a balance between environmental conservation and service/housing/development provision.

The panel included noted experts such as Han Qunli, Director of Ecological and Earth Sciences at UNESCO, Katia Krousakis, Environmental Economist with the OECD, Pavan Sukhdev, Head of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative, as well as South Africa's own Tanya Abrahamse, CEO of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

I spoke to the importance of biodiversity to Cape Town from an economic point of view saying:

"Research has shown that a direct relationship exists between ecological diversity and the perceived manner in which a landscape functions. Similarly, overbuilt and degraded landscapes correlate with inefficient management and conservationist negligence. This is especially relevant when considering the economic value that the natural environment presents to the tourist industry. Cape Town is heavily reliant upon its tourist count to generate much needed economic stimulation. It is multi-million dollar industry for us. Yet, here, we as a government face the conjecture of maintaining our environmental integrity and yet facilitating the dire need for amenities for a rapidly expanding society. Within the context of Cape Town, and even Africa, it is important to remember that most of those that flock to our cities do so from a position of indigence and vulnerability. The key to this conundrum, we believe, is creating a framework that allows the City to work for its environment whilst simultaneously has the environment work for the City."

I was able to rely on a study conducted by the City which quantified the value that the environment, and was able to concretely display the financial contributions that eco-tourism and conservation had made to the City's fiscal reserves.

"Key findings within the study suggested that ecosystem services of natural hazard regulation, tourism and recreation, and support to the film industry provide a benefit of between \$150 million and \$400 million per annum to people living in visiting the City. When conservatively adjusted for other ecosystem services, a benefit of between \$200 million and \$600 million per annum is provided by the City's natural assets."

The speech, furthermore, addressed the role of green infrastructure and the importance that the environment plays in creating support systems which mitigate unpredictable patterns of climate change, wild fires, and storm surges. The City of Cape Town's various policy approaches and implementation strategies were highlighted as mechanisms with which to address such threats:

"High levels of uncertainty exist regarding the most appropriate solutions to risk minimisation. However, natural solutions and the use of existing natural assets offer sustainability advantages and are more likely to allow for the realisation of multiple benefits with "least regrets" when compared to engineering solutions. To this end, Cape Town is developing an Integrated Coastal Management Policy which actively addresses the administrative measures required to combat climate change.

The damage and management costs that will be avoided, as a result of the optimisation of natural asset functions, is estimated to range from \$460, 000 to \$6.4 million per annum (when combining the natural hazard regulation for all three natural hazards – fire, floods, and storms).

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Relatively high levels of uncertainty exist with regard to these predicted values and more research is needed on the links between ecosystems and natural hazard regulation. However, enough is known about the links between the conservation and proper management of natural assets to make it clear that investment in these assets needs to be an integral part of disaster management.

Natural assets have significant value as purifiers and assimilators of waste, essentially acting as natural versions of built infrastructure such as 'sewage outfalls' and 'water treatment plants'. As with built infrastructure, however, the natural environment can only cope with a certain maximum amount of waste or pollution before it becomes inefficient"

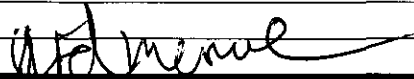
In a secondary address which I had to give, the focus was shifted to the policy platform which the City of Cape Town used to address biodiversity management across the municipality. Recognition was given to the City's Land Banking Programme, the success of the EPWP, the Bioregional Plan, the Environmental Fiscal Reform, the Coastal Management Policy, and the Mayor's Portfolio on Urban Sustainability.

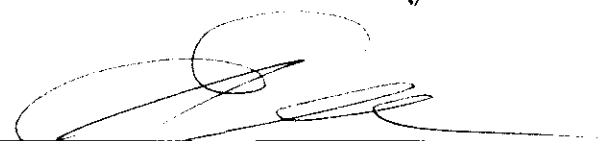
Both of these addresses were very well received; eliciting a number of commendations and desires to instil similar procedures as to those active within Cape Town.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

9. ANNEXURES

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

NAME	Johan Van Der Merwe
CONTACT NUMBERS	021 444 0964
E-MAIL ADDRESS	Johannes.Vandermerwe@capetown.gov.za
DIRECTORATE	EESP
FILE REF No	
SIGNATURE	



CITY MANAGER

ACHMAT EBRAHIM

☒ SUPPORTED FOR ONWARD SUBMISSION TO
MAYOR ☒ / MAYCO ☐ / COUNCIL ☐

☐ NOT SUPPORTED

☐ REFERRED BACK

DATE

12.01.2015

COMMENT:



LEGAL COMPLIANCE

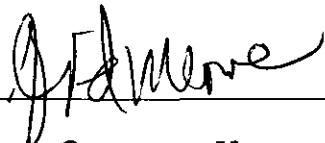
☐ REPORT COMPLIANT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL'S DELEGATIONS, POLICIES, BY-LAWS AND ALL LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION.

☐ NON-COMPLIANT

NAME Sarah van Zyl
TEL 021 400 5446
DATE 15.01.2015

Comment:

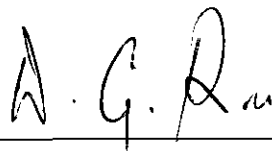
For Noting 



MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

NAME JFH V/D MERWE
DATE 16/01/2015

COMMENT:



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: COMPLIANCE & AUXILIARY SERVICES

GERHARD RAS

☐ SUPPORTED FOR ONWARD SUBMISSION

☐ NOT SUPPORTED

☐ REFERRED BACK

COMMENT:

DATE

19/1/2015

EXECUTIVE MAYOR
PATRICIA DE LILLE

- ☐ SUPPORTED FOR ONWARD SUBMISSION TO
MAYCO ☐ / COUNCIL ☐
- ☐ PC RECOMMENDATION
- ☐ RECOMMENDATION AS CONTAINED IN
ORIGINAL REPORT
- ☐ ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION TO BE
REFLECTED BELOW

☐ APPROVED I.T.O. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

☐ NOTED

☐ REFUSED

☐ REFERRED BACK

DATE _____