



REPORT TO: CITY MANAGER

TO BE REFERRED BY THE OFFICIAL TO MAYCO VIA THE RELEVANT SPATIAL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SECTION 79 COMMITTEE AFTER CONSIDERATION
BY CITY MANAGER

1. ITEM NUMBER

2. SUBJECT

FEEDBACK ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRIP UNDERTAKEN FROM 12 TO
18 NOVEMBER 2023 TO ATTEND THE CONNECTIVE CITIES DIALOGUE
EVENT AND THE ANNUAL REBUILT PROJECT MEETING IN
POTSDAM/BERLIN, GERMANY

ONDERWERP

TERUGVOERING OOR DIE REIS NA DIE BUITELAND ONDERNEEM VAN
12 TOT 18 NOVEMBER 2023 OM DIE *CONNECTIVE CITIES DIALOGUE*-
GELEENTHEID EN DIE JAARLIKSE *REBUILT PROJECT*-VERGADERING
IN POTSDAM/BERLYN, DUITSLAND BY TE WOON

ISIHLOKO

INGXELO ENGASEMVA KOHAMBO KUMAZWE APHESHEYA
EQHUTYWE UKUSUSELA NGOWE12 UKUYA KOWE18 KWEYENKANGA
2023 UKUZIMASA UMSITHO ONGENGXOXO EMALUNGA NEZIXEKO
EZIQHAGAMSHENEYO NENTLANGANISO YONYAKA
ENGEPROWUJEKTHI YOKWAKHA NGOKUTSHA, EQHUTYELWE E
POTSDAM/BERLIN, E GERMANY

LSU Reference Number: Q1980

3. EVENT SUMMARY

EVENT DETAILS	
CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	N/A
OTHER	Peer-to-Peer exchange between municipalities, industry and researchers and inaugural meeting of all global partners of the ReBuilt research project.
DATE	12 – 18 November 2023
VENUE	Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Telegrapher A56, Potsdam, 14473, and Freiraum in der Box, Boxhagener Strabe 96, Berlin, 10245
TOTAL COST TO THE CITY	R20 025.99 (<i>made up of subsistence and additional travel insurance</i>)
CITY	Potsdam and Berlin
COUNTRY	GERMANY

ATTENDEE DETAILS	
NAME AND SURNAME	DESIGNATION
Liezel Kruger-Fountain	PRINCIPAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICER (URBAN SUSTAINABILITY UNIT)
PROVIDE SUMMARY OF HOST ORGANISATION / CITY	
<p>The overall event was organised in collaboration with the City of Potsdam's Climate Protection Coordination offices, Bauhaus Earth, and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK).</p> <p>The South African costs were sponsored by the City of Potsdam's exchange platform, <i>Connective Cities</i>, which brings together international urban practitioners from city administrations, civil society, academia and the private sector. <i>Connective Cities</i> is a cooperation project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Association of Cities and Engagement Global, with its Service Agency Communities in One World.</p>	

4. OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Connective Cities is to help address questions related to regional economic development, driven by sustainable policies and strategies, so as to illustrate best practices in the overarching field of good

urban governance, integrated urban development and support for local economic development strategies.

The Connective Cities platform and the City of Potsdam invited urban practitioners to an initial 3-day dialogue event in Potsdam on resource-efficient construction with wood and other bio-based building materials as well as reused materials. The event aimed to build a broader understanding of the opportunities and challenges connected to the use of regenerative and re-used materials in the building sector. In acknowledging a need to address international climate change pressures, the complexities and variety of locally specific materials and practices formed the focus of the dialogue with active municipal projects sharing their experiences and discussing challenges and opportunities during their transformation of the building sector towards reused materials and natural-based materials.

Planned as a hands-on, practical peer-to-peer exchange between various municipalities, industry and researchers from across the globe, the platform offered an opportunity to discuss ways of applying more sustainable, circular and bio-based materials across municipalities as a key lever to decarbonise the built environment and explore the potential of climate-positive buildings and cities, to fight climate change. This pooling of experiences and peer-to-peer exchange aimed to enhance the capacity of participant cities to shape their context-specific visions and action plans while valuing traditional practices and local experiences. This learning process aims to support municipal actors with peer-advice and selected ideas for local solutions have the opportunity to have further support by Connective Cities through follow-up activities such as local workshops/webinars.

It was highlighted once again that internationally, the built environment is responsible for almost 40% of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions – a conundrum as there is also a high demand for new urban infrastructure and housing with large proportions of countries migrating to cities. This rapid urbanisation required a rethink in the way we design, build, maintain and rebuild our urban environment. The workshops and excursions afforded all participating cities, including Thimphu/Paro (Bhutan), Denpasar (Indonesia), Potsdam/Berlin (Germany) and Cape Town, an opportunity to identify locally specific transformation pathways towards a more regenerative built environment which aims to reverse the impact of construction on our natural ecosystems. The focus was on five transformative themes: a) bio-based materials, b) circular construction practices, c) polycentric and resource-efficient urban systems, d) people-centred and inclusive approaches and e) the creation of an enabling environment for system change. It would be of benefit to and for the City to incorporate these into our own built environment processes.

5. OUTCOMES

Valuable information was gleaned, our own case study shared and beneficial contacts established with like-minded people from various countries. In terms of how this experience/knowledge acquired will add value to the City, the initial answer lies in sharing the concept and journey towards a *regenerative built*

environment. This information can also be incorporated into own projects, with the support from peer-advice and case study. The journey towards a more sustainable future is not one that we can go on on our own – we have to share lessons learned with each other; build on creating valuable contacts to share their experiences, point out contextually appropriate methods and offer an opportunity to think local but act global. The international exchange offered the opportunity to brainstorm, amongst the Western Cape delegation, key focus/touch points and the aim of more integrated support systems. The event also offered the City of Cape Town the opportunity to showcase our own ‘living lab’ project: Potsdam Sustainability Campus, highlighting that we too are a key player on the international stage, despite our challenges as a country. Our learning curve might even be quicker.

Our own Potsdam Sustainability Campus initiative/programme speaks directly to this, proposing an innovative City-owned exhibition platform (living lab) for experimentation with a large array of sustainable practices, materials and technologies, where the City can physically demonstrate what the impacts of various innovative approaches coupled with integrated design-thinking can have on the health of Cape Town and its people. In seeing relevant case studies in both Potsdam and Berlin, the exchange already highlighted that we are on the right path in developing our own pathway towards transformation that aims to bring knowledge partners, industry, government at large and our communities together.

Our cross-departmental/governmental learning environment will highlight that prevention is better than cure, that a sustainable and transversal approach can help meet our SDGs and Climate Action targets and that while influencing city-wide policies, planning and projects, it addresses the local area needs. It is clear from the exposure I had in Germany and in exchange with others, that we cannot do it on our own; as a government. We have to partner with others to find a shared pathway to a better future for all. One where the concept of a regenerative built environment is key. Supporting our communities to ‘build better’ with more locally produced or reused materials will have a major impact not only on our environmental sustainability, but also on our resilience as a people, and towards support for our economic crisis. Thinking global but acting local is critical and we believe, and this was confirmed through this exchange, that we are developing our own platform for exchange (changing mind-sets) on our journey towards sustainability.

6. ACTIONS REQUIRED

The following actions are proposed:

- a) **Support for ReBuilt project** - as part of this exchange, the Bauhaus Earth is providing funding for further engagement in the relevant cities. This includes research through African Centre for Cities (ACC), highlighting relevant regenerative systems in existence and other relevant contextual information, while the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) will map relevant stakeholders in the Western Cape, and initiate local discussions (workshops) in the first half of 2024. Endorsement of this would be instrumental for the City.

- b) **Incorporate the concept of a regenerative built environment into our own work** - the fact that we have already identified *Sustainable Building Technologies* as one of the five (5) overarching chapters of our Potsdam Sustainability Campus initiative, is advantageous, especially due to the overall programme's transversal, integrated systems-thinking nature. It would therefore be important for the City to build on this initial interaction, to ensure that we, as the local authority, set the direction for a more sustainable and resilient future. This can be done through further involvement, offering this local area around the Potsdam site as a case study for further discourse; sharing information and hosting possible interaction going forward. It would be important for the City to endorse the ReBuilt project, its findings and outcomes as part of the Potsdam Sustainability Campus initiative (specifically) and wider City processes (generally) to harvest long-term value from this exchange. As a unit within Urban Planning and Design, will also embrace and utilise the learning in any architectural development projects that we embark on/ can influence.
- c) **Anchor regenerative built environment principles in our regulatory environment** - the City is pursuing the development of a local Building By-law and it would be beneficial to the City to lead the discussion in the Western Cape, on incorporating more locally produced, bio-based materials and the re-use of existing building stock/materials into our City assets and processes; assisting also certification and other regulatory processes to unlock, not hamstringing these climate action initiatives. Engagement with/through EDP and ACC could support this. It could also address, in part, our pursuit towards inclusive economic growth as set out in the City's Integrated Development plan implementation with opportunities for job creating flowing from it.

7. IMPLICATIONS

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|-----|--|--|------------------------------|
| 7.1 | Constitutional and Policy Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.2 | Environmental implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.3 | Financial Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.4 | Legal Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.5 | Staff Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.6 | Risk Implications | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.7 | <u>POPIA Compliance</u> | | |

- ☒ It is confirmed that this report has been checked and considered for POPIA Compliance.

NOTE: POPIA Section MUST be completed otherwise the report will be returned to the author for revision.

Contact your Directorate POPIA Stewards should you require assistance.

The City has a contract in place with XL Embassy Travel for the safe-keeping of Traveller's personal information as required by the POPI Act.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- a) the feedback report on the international Connective Cities dialogue event and Rebuilt Project trip undertaken by Liezel Kruger-Fountain on 12 – 18 November 2023 **be considered and noted.**

AANBEVELINGS

Daar word aanbeveel dat:

- a) Die terugvoeringsverslag oor die internasionale reis vir bywoning van die *Connective Cities Dialogue*-geleentheid en *Rebuilt Project*-vergadering onderneem van 12 – 18 November 2023 **oorweeg en daarvan kennis geneem word.**

IZINDULULO:

Kundululwe ukuba:

- a) **Makuthathelwe ingqalelo kwaye kuqwalaselwe** ingxelo engasemva kohambo olwalujoliswe kumsitho ongengxoxo ngokumalunga neZixeko eziQhagamsheleneyo neProwujekthi engoKwakha ngokutsha, oluqhutywe nguLiezel Kruger-Fountain ukususela ngowe12 ukuya kowe18 kweyeNkanga 2023.

9. GENERAL DISCUSSION

As part of a growing knowledge base, interesting documents and relevant case studies highlighted before and during this exchange, include the following:

- In preparation for the trip, and in discussion with our existing partners at the Potsdam Sustainability Campus, the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI, *an international non-governmental organisation that promotes sustainable development and provides technical consulting to local governments to identify and meet sustainability objectives*), shared with us a very recent document in line with the knowledge exchange theme (see Annexure A). This locally produced document could be of great value going forward.
 - Ongoing multi-series by Bauhaus Earth: 'Building for the Future' collection (see Annexures B - D) - designed as a modular system, the *knowledge collection* provides visually appealing and easily digestible information to introduce people to the idea of a regenerative built environment. It gives an overview of key developments, concepts, and options for action. They are part of the first series, 'Setting the Frame', which highlights critical facts and figures about the built environment as a major contributor to the climate crisis. It also introduces the vision of a regenerative built environment and presents practical ideas and approaches.
 - Other relevant case studies in Germany:
 - Concular GmbH – focusing on the eco-system for circular construction, utilising a previously under-utilised building to promote the experimentation process of furthering in extending the building and creating a hub for intervention – www.concular.com
 - Impact Hub Berlin – showcasing interior design of the hub to inspire others to think about the re-use of material and new bio-based materials - [Impact Hub Berlin Home - Impact Hub Berlin](#)
 - Model Project: Haus der Statistik – an urban version of the Potsdam Sustainability Campus, utilising an under-utilised building precinct in the core of Berlin as a base for developing a new procedure to transform cooperative planning into sustainable, neighbourhood and user-orientated urban design. [Haus der Statistik at Alexanderplatz | visitBerlin.de](#)
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10. ANNEXURES

- **Annexure A:** Circular economy in Africa - ICLEI_Oct 2023
- **Annexure B:** Building for the Future – Series 1-1: Setting the Frame - Climate crisis and the role of the built environment
- **Annexure C:** Building for the Future – Series 1-2: Setting the Frame - How to fix the built environment system
- **Annexure D:** Building for the Future – Series 1-3: Setting the Frame - The Vision of a regenerative built environment

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT:

DATE	24 November 2023		
NAME	Liezel Kruger-Fountain	CONTACT NUMBER	021 400 9443 / 072 698 1692
E-MAIL ADDRESS	Liezel.krugerfountain@capetown.gov.za		
DIRECTORATE	SPE	FILE REF No	
SIGNATURE :	Liezel Kruger Fountain Digitally signed by Liezel Kruger Fountain Date: 2023.11.24 12:58:26 +02'00'		

DIRECTOR

ERIKA NAUDE

COMMENT:

SIGNATURE:

NAME

DATE

E. Naude

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Date: 2023.11.27 14:57:55
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBERT MCGAFFIN

COMMENT:

The ED's signature represents support for report content and confirms POPIA compliance.

SIGNATURE:

NAME

DATE

Robert McGaffin

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Date: 2023.11.28 15:59:51
+02'00'

COMMENT:

MANAGER: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DR. DENVER VAN SCHALKWYK

Actions noted

SIGNATURE:

DATE

Dr Denver van Schalkwyk

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Date: 2023.11.28
19:51:59 +02'00'

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

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

☐ NON-COMPLIANT

COMMENT:

NAME _____

TEL _____

DATE _____

Certified as legally compliant based on the contents of the report.

CITY MANAGER

☒ NOTED

☒ REFER TO THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE VIA THE RELEVANT SECTION 79 COMMITTEE

DATE _____

COMMENT:

