



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

URBAN NATURE CONSERVATION THROUGH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF COMMUNITIES

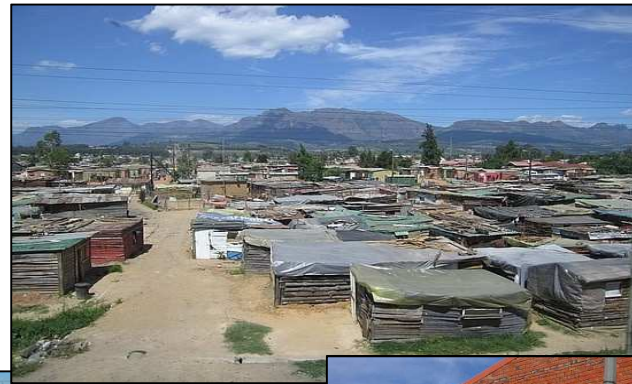
VILLAGE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Helen Davies
EESP/ Environmental Resource Management Department
October 2014

Making progress possible. **Together.**

Starting point: main challenge to be addressed

- False Bay Ecology Park (FBEP): Extensive wetlands & proposed RAMSAR site; biodiversity under threat; >270 bird species; hippo population
- Diverse socio-economic communities - varying needs & priorities, development pressures, limited recreational facilities, crime, waste issue
- Nature not relevant to people
- Need for social capital & climate change resilience



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Institutional setting

- FBEP importance recognised by City; need to make park relevant: pilot project Village Heights
- Strong partnership basis: government (5 depts) & civil society (external stakeholders & Village Heights stakeholder forum (key champion: Bernadine Thomas)
- National biodiversity policy & strategy: strategy for buffer zones: assist communities to benefit from park



Approach

- Nature areas **RELEVANT** – identify value add for community
- Fulfil multiple City objectives
- Deep community engagement - understand concerns, challenges & priorities - focus on ‘how’ rather than ‘what’
- Partnerships (incl NGOs) and co-creation of solutions
- Continuous feedback loops
- Event days – hands on involvement



Outputs

- Illegally dumped waste cleared & clear waste collection process
- Removal of alien invasive vegetation
- Built children's play area
- Established food garden
- Establishing nature garden
- World Design Capital Project 2014



Lessons learnt

- Engage with community more widely – reduce barriers & promote replicability
- Project sustainability – skills & time
- More focus on co-designing interventions
- Community access to reserve itself



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Preconditions for transfer

- Share progress & lessons - other communities
- Build capacity & enthusiasm in community incl. co-designing interventions
- Project / community liaison officer / NGO - support similar projects
- Financial self-sustainability – how realistic?
- Support to SMMEs & NGOs
- Closer links with VPUU prog.





**CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD**

Thank You

For queries contact helen.davies@capetown.gov.za

Making progress possible. Together.