

Parallel Session 3

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
REPORT BACK

THEMES COVERED (11 presentations)

- Environmental Planning Instruments awareness and preparedness
 - EMFs, SOEs, Wetland and Biodiversity Audits, Management of Water Bodies etc
- Integrating Environmental Planning and Spatial Planning and Land Use Management and Built Form (EMFs; Settlement restructuring)
- Training for Planning (environment and spatial) and implementation
- Environmental Planning for Quality of life (SL)

Themes cont.

- Copenhagen presentation on climate change response planning and forward planning for a new sustainable settlement;
- Four presentations on bridging the gap between environmental and development planning (Environmental Management Frameworks in Sedibeng and uMhlatuze, the National EMF Guidelines, and City of Joburg's environmental planning training project)
- Provincial planning guidance on restructuring of settlements in the Western Cape
- Two presentations on the importance of evidence-based environmental planning (City of Joburg's State of the Environment Reporting and Sustainability Indicators)
- Two presentations on micro-level planning processes including the City of Joburg's Wetland Conservation and Management Plan and Biodiversity Audit and Strategy.

Overall Observations

- Institutional Arrangements are constantly being re-defined for impact, at local level
- Rich diversity, varying complexity in preparing and using environmental tools for environmental planning and mainstreaming this, provincial and local levels (we getting and getting better)
- Exploiting info technology
- Challenge is now on researching, understanding and mainstreaming for CC (mitigation and adaptation)
- Lots of experience from Local government and training and mentorship within structures and should be encouraged and facilities to consolidate and deliver experience and training to other cities.
- Bottom line, should shift o adding value to quality of life, that provides the socio-economic argument for sustainability (CC, energy efficiency, env planning, land use management), Denmark demonstrates this!
- Subsidization for sustainability ((CC, energy efficiency, env planning, land use management - QoL; SL; Longterm Benefits
- Paradigm shift – for sustainability (CC, energy efficiency, env planning, land use management)

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

next 18 months and beyond from UEM

- Training/ Learning Hub (from experiences gained and can be shared , local and international).
- Research, assessments and integration and financial and technical support for CC , baselines lines and adv planning.
- Enforcement Arm/ Compliance (for action)
- Env Guidelines but beyond this (basic statutory min requirements) to integrate into planning.
- Leverage (DEAT) to initiate with in particular National and Provincial Depts to support policy and legislative requirements and financial assistance, Lobby Workstream

Specifics Recommendations

- EMF guideline prepared by DEAT should be enhanced and updated given the lessons and experiences (uMhlatuze, Joburg and Sedibeng). Key issues include how to strengthen the link between EMFs and IDP or other development planning processes; and the difference between SEA and EMF processes.
- In addition to EMF guidelines, DEAT should develop minimum environmental information and principles into IDPs and spatial development frameworks.
- Local environmental and developmental planning processes can be better aligned by (a) assembling adequate and reliable information to inform decision-making; (b) training internal departments and raising awareness of environmental planning principles; and (c) ensuring co-ordination of systems such as GIS and budgeting processes (such as Capital Investment Management System in Joburg)

Concerns

- Continuity outside a donor programme (beyond funding)
- Keeping momentum and support (financial , technical, lobby)
- Dissemination of Outputs (lets gain as oppose to lose what we have achieved)