

Update - UEM Programme - Component 2/ Knowledge Management and civil society support

The Knowledge Management and Civil Society Support component of the UEM programme comprises of three separate pools of funds, namely, for knowledge management, research and civil society support activities. Since the Danish embassy's email update of the 15th September 2006, the following progress that has been made in the respective sub-components

Knowledge Dissemination

The SACN produced and disseminated a brochure on Sustainable Cities that includes an insert on the UEM programme. Other planned activities, including the generation of monthly UEM and sustainable cities content for the SACN website is progressing well, and the first Sustainable Cities Reference Group (of the three supported by the UEM programme) has been held. Replies are awaited from 3 international environmental experts who have been invited as guest speakers for the SCRG meetings to be held in the first half of 2007.

The first six-monthly progress report has been received, and the work is progressing smoothly.

Research

Three research briefs were defined in October 2006 as per correspondence circulated in November 2006. A list of possible service providers was drawn in December 2006, with input from various partners. The three research calls for proposals were circulated on 4th January 2007, with a deadline set for 25th January 2007. Please find attached the three briefs circulated. The proposals received will be adjudicated by RDE and the SACN, and contract arrangements entered into as soon as possible thereafter.

The next step for the Research Fund is setting a date for the holding of a workshop to consider and discuss the research agenda for 2007. It is hope that a tentative date can be agreed upon at the PSC set for 31st January 2007.

Civil Society Organisations

The civil society support is planned to cover each of the three target provinces of the UEM programme, namely Gauteng, KZN and Western Cape, and to have a range of activities that enhance pro-poor urban environmental management. In this regard five new agreements have been signed with Earthlife Africa Johannesburg, groundWork, the Green house project and the South Durban Community Environment Alliance. This brings to eight, the number of NGOs supported by component 2 of the UEM programme.

The Delta Environmental Centre's first six-monthly progress report has been received, and the Environmental education, training and skills development project is progressing smoothly.

