



POST LEARNING EVENT REPORTING TEMPLATE

As part of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to strengthen our organisation's culture of learning and sharing, this form presents information on a recent out of town trip, visit, learning exchange undertaken by an official from the municipality. This information will be posted on the MILE website (www.mile.org.za) in the interest of advancing our **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** agenda. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

1. What was the NAME OF THE EVENT?

Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity (Urban Biodiversity: A value to appreciate)

2. The DATE attended:

20/05/2013 to 23/05/2013

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Parc du Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Montreal Botanical Gardens, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Natasha Govender, Specialist Ecologist, Biodiversity Planning Branch, Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department

5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Culture, heritage and sport | <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering and the built environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | IT and Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic development and Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health and Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> | City strategy and planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy and the natural environment | x | Good governance | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Other: **Green Economy. Ecosystem Services. Biodiversity and human well-being.**

6. What was the PURPOSE OF THE EVENT, THE BROAD OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES? Why was it of importance?

The key purpose of the event was to highlight the key role of cities in the global context, with specific reference to the importance of biodiversity and the concomitant ecosystem services that it provides to healthy cities. By 2030, the majority of the planet will live in cities and this is going to put an enormous pressure on natural resources. This conference highlighted the need to consider the environment when planning cities, not only to protect biodiversity but to secure the key service that intact ecosystems provides to present (and future) generations.

7. What in your opinion are some of the KEY LEARNINGS that you came away with? In other words, what stood out for you? Were there any "aha!" learning moments that you can share with colleagues? What were some of the KEY OBSERVATIONS that were important or different?

1. That the city of the future is one that incorporates environmental considerations in all its planning.
2. That natural ecosystems (trees, waterways etc), have been proven to directly impact human health in a positive manner.
3. That despite the fact that cities cover a small percentage of area globally, they are the key drivers of environmental change.
4. Cities can be centres of innovation for new green technologies.

8. As a result of this event, what is the ONE CHANGE that you may consider making backing back at work, if any? What follow ups are envisaged?

The message of the importance of biodiversity in cities for human well-being needs to be communicated more strongly with officials and politicians.

The key learning is the importance of all City Departments (not just Environment) to seriously consider natural ecosystems in their every day work. Every single municipal employee needs to BE THE CHANGE we want to see in the world.

9. Please indicate details of useful CONTACTS AND NETWORKS that were established during the event?

ICLEI - Local Action for Biodiversity
CBD - The Convention on Biological Diversity
Ville Montreal

10. One of the key functions of our MILE website is to serve as a repository of LEARNING DOCUMENTATION, VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIAL. Please can send such material to mile@durban.gov.za so that it can be uploaded onto our website.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION