



## 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](http://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?

BREMEN & DURBAN MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP & STUDY TOUR

### 2. The DATE attended:

16-20 SEPTEMBER 2013

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

BREMEN, GERMANY

The Workshop and Study Tour was held in the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, in Germany. Our hosts were the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen and GIZ, and the event was held in various venues and project sites around the city.

**4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?**

Dr. Susanna Godehart (International Transaction Officer: Energy Office)

Helene Epstein (Manager: Framework Planning, Development Planning Department)

Elizabeth Dubbeld (Senior Professional Planner: Framework Planning Branch, Development Planning Department)

Emmanuel Letebele (Senior Professional Planner: Framework Planning Branch, Development Planning Department)

Linda Mbonambi (Area Project Manager: INK ABM)

**5. What area of expertise did the event cover?**

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

Other:

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

The purpose of the Planning Workshop and study tour was to share projects and learn key lessons specifically around the themes of Planning and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. The adaptation component of the climate change partnership with Bremen is coordinated by the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD), and the Planning workstream within this by the Development Planning Department. The first structured activity for the Planning workstream was the Planning workshop and study tour held in Bremen from the 16th- 20th September 2013, hosted by the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen.

In both Bremen and Durban addressing climate change is particularly challenging in areas that have many other pressing needs (employment, poverty, education, low housing and environmental standards). In this context, it was critical look at some life examples and projects which are able to achieve multiple positive impacts. In Durban, the examples of planning and climate change adaptation/mitigation were centred around the INK and Phoenix areas which lie within the Umhlangane Catchment.

The partnership has a strong focus on Climate Change Adaption, but in this workshop it was seen as critical to also look at mitigation and resilience, and the participation of the Energy Office in this workshop was therefore pivotal to its success.

Key Themes included: Planning to foster social integration; Adaptation, Mitigation and Planning - Built environment sustainability indicators; Economic and social integration: mixed use redevelopment / densification and Conclusions, learning, fields of further cooperation

**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?**

**Key Learnings Included:**

**Theme: Defining Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience and Mitigation:**

- It is important to make provision for energy generation in our planning system. Firstly to incorporate provision for wind and solar into the land use management scheme and controls as is done in Bremen in a way that facilitates easy approval. Secondly, for our spatial plans (as is also done in Bremen in their F plan) to identify the appropriate spatial locations for wind turbines (and perhaps other types of renewable energy installations). Learnings from our site tours indicated that wind turbines are best located in agricultural areas or industrial areas but should be located at some distance from residential areas (due to noise and shadows) and wetlands (due to the impact on birdlife).
- Spatial Plans at all levels of planning (in our Package of Plans) must make provision for a network of safe, accessible options for non-motorised transport (bicycles) and planning must upscale its efforts to increase densities along public transport routes but being cautious that we don't create heat islands. This should be accompanied by awareness raising strategies.
- In addition, as in Bremen, we should seriously restrict the arbitrary extension of our development footprint by insisting (or perhaps incentivising) brownfields development over greenfields development and protect (as in Bremen) the agricultural land beyond the city.
- Given that the majority of the population in Durban are poor and extremely vulnerable making it harder for our citizens to "bounce back" necessitates that spatial planning approaches in Durban assess where there are areas of high risk from for example, flooding and heat islands and then assess the impact on land use, development location, density and open spaces for fresh air ventilation. Details of work being undertaken by Dr Christoff Vosseler on developing a temperature profile and identifying fresh air corridors as well as surface water problems is detailed below and is considered an important area of focus in the short to medium term and a key informant to our spatial plans.
- Changing building codes and regulating building construction are some of the planning strategies that could also address changes in climate.
- The assessment of the risk of sea level rise on coastal development is one area of work that has received attention in our spatial plans but appropriate development controls needs to be detailed in the land use schemes.

Resilience from an ecological perspective is fairly well understood and requires diversity, redundancy and independence of systems, sensitivity, capacity for adaptation and responsiveness. However, community resilience is less understood and requires a greater focus on engaging with communities in defining the problem and developing their own solutions. Although by its nature, planning is participative, spatial planning is not engaging with communities at this point with a view to empowering communities to understand and cope with the impacts of climate change. Strategies such as developing a green economy and job creation are only partially addressing this issue. This will need further consideration on possible and appropriate strategies and implications from a spatial planning perspective, such as developing food security

- The Skype session with AJ Smit showing the Durban approach to Adaptation was extremely useful for the team and Dr Voßeler to understand how it is key that adaptation is a multi-sectoral initiative.

### **Theme: Spatial Planning in Bremen**

- The F Plan is prepared every 10yrs and the public participation process takes approx. 2 years. These are more realistic timeframes and provide consistency in the planning approach.
- The public processes provide real opportunities for public engagement. For projects, the public processes take approx. 1 year. The public are also notified of the different proposals received and the winner of the competition is announced publically. The public are approached at the very initial stages of the project ie without having conceptualised any plan and with the use of building models; they actively seek out scenarios and options which the communities identify themselves. Building models (at a scale of 1:500) are used extensively in different projects and it was considered a very effective way of visually communicating planning options and intentions.

There appears to be very strict adherence to their 'F' Plan (this is for official use only). Development cannot proceed unless the proposed land use has been translated into their "Binding plan" (municipal law). The B Plan never contradicts the F plan (in other words the scheme never contradicts the SDF). Even more striking was the way in which urban redevelopment is encouraged whilst greenfields development requires a more onerous motivation for extending the "urban footprint" particularly if it encroaches into valuable agricultural land indicating support at all levels for a more compact and efficient approach to city development.

An interesting provision in the planning legislation under Section 34 – allows you to do what your neighbour does without requiring a B Plan. This not only facilitates faster development but also creates consistency in land use, building height and design, provides a sense of place and character that is not currently experienced in the Durban context. It would be useful to consider how such a provision might be used in our planning system and if so, how we could still be sensitive to the need for both diversity and uniformity.

In the absence of relevant information (eg water and river studies) it might be useful to consider other approaches for projects or development applications such as being required to undertake a Climate Change Impact Assessment similar to an EIA or possibly this could be the focus of a "Strategic Environmental Assessment" which we are required to undertake as part of our IDP/SDF in terms of the Municipal Systems Act.

Of particular interest was the car free Sunday in the city centre which was one of the city initiatives to promote non-motorised transportation and to advocate for an increased usage of public transportation. This highlights the link between the planning that is undertaken and the “marketing or awareness raising” that is undertaken alongside their planning initiatives that serve to reinforce the city / state strategies to increase the use of Non- Motorised Transport. The use of marketing strategies (ie initiatives or pamphlets) are useful tools to create awareness and “sell the concept” as has been evidenced in other South African cities such as was used by the Johannesburg Development Agency in promoting their “Corridors of Freedom” initiative. Communication and awareness raising with the public is clearly an important element towards achieving a successful plan.

Although Bremen is a much smaller geographic area, their planning focus is both strategic and detailed with a greater emphasis on urban design and landscaping (ie working with architects), redevelopment, public participation and addressing socio-economic issues in particular areas of the city where such challenges have emerged due to in-migration.

In an effort to obtain the best possible design, it is also common to call for detailed building designs by competition rather than tender with a fixed amount of money being made available to cover the expenses of the consortium. These are then presented to the public before being adjudicated by a jury (panel of experts) and awarded to the best design. This is then announced to the public in a big event.

**Theme: Sustainability Indicators:**

- As we are about to embark on developing our own sustainability indicators for spatial planning, the on-going sharing of information and understanding how these are applied and adhered to will add immense value to our planning processes. This is a suggested area of focus for future engagements as it can be applied in the city wide context.

That before you allow green fields development in Bremen you need to undertake a needs analysis study to determine if new land is needed for a proposed development , as Bremen is progressive and leading in reducing built up area and trying to concentrate developments in their CBD by encouraging brown fields re-developments.

It took a period of 7 years of research, consultations as well as undertaking studies before arriving at a set of indicators and the incorporation thereof into their F-Plans.

This was in the interest of upholding the principles of democracy, as they had to consider different alternatives, which became a time consuming exercise, and their populace was able to understand the problem and time frames.

As part of their consultative process they held professional debates with experts for 5/6 years and over 50 public meetings were held, 15 000 comments were received and built into the indicators.

**Theme: Renewable Energy and their regulatory requirements:**

Different technologies of RE have different planning and regulatory requirements. During the visit wind energy and solar (photovoltaic) were explored based on the comprehensive experience in Germany with these technologies.

Integration of wind turbines into strategic spatial planning (counterpart: Tom Lecke-Lopatta): Discussions included criteria for the location of wind turbines, such as compatible land uses, environmental issues and necessary buffer distances to residential areas. Lessons learnt include: areas suitable for wind turbines are identified and mapped at city level (or regional level); local environmental assessment is undertaken once application for turbines are made by developers.

- Photovoltaic (counterpart: Hartmut Eichhorn): Discussions focused on roof –top installations and the letting of municipal roofs for PV installations by private investors. Lessons learnt included: In Bremen, no planning permission is required for roof-top installations except for installation on listed buildings. The City of Bremen extensively lets roofs of municipal buildings and open spaces such as a former land-fill site to investors into PV.
- Integration of biogas and biomass installations into planning (counterpart: Dietmar Bothe): the counterpart was not available during the visit but contact will be made electronically

**Theme: Redevelopment & Densification:**

- Neus Hulsberg/Das Viertel- Discussion on the hospital redevelopment/densification project, with a focus on community participation and optimising developable space. It was extremely insightful to note that the public participation process on this project has been of the highest priority, and involved the active participation of stakeholders in looking at the needs and design of the area to be redeveloped. The Walking tour of the hospital redevelopment project gave us a clear understanding of the kind of space that would be redeveloped and how small changes in urban footprint can make a huge difference to density and intensity of use.

- Überseestadt – First-hand experience of a multimodal public transportation system. Interesting discussion on Port redevelopment and regeneration, as well as impacts of gentrification on surrounding poorer communities. Attempts to draw parallels with Kwa Mashu A and Bridge City. Acknowledgement of the similarities to the Point area in Durban.

In the Überseestadt area, increasingly the area is becoming attractive for upmarket urban residential and mixed-use activities – and there are challenges around competing land uses. Trends in Germany seem to indicate that people are moving back into towns and cities for the benefits of urban facilities and infrastructure, and this development supports the trends.

- Visit to Schuppen 1 – an extremely innovative mixed use building that used to be a cargo warehouse with large scale commercial facilities below and residential and office facilities above, separated by a road on the upper storey of the building. Extremely interesting to understand the full potential of mixed use and densified brownfields development.

Bremer Western, including Gröpelingen –Interesting to see examples of urban decay, and an area that is struggling with cultural and social integration. The relationship between a residential area and the still-active port industrial area. Example of solar PV panels on residential buildings. The redevelopment of a site with various uses and stakeholders to accommodate the expansion of a school and a change of land uses. An example of a densified housing typology using a central courtyard as a community space. Discussion on challenges with public participation.

**Theme: Adaptation Integrated into Strategic Planning:**

- This study presents a real opportunity to review land uses, density, open spaces, wind corridors and building orientation to control the impacts of heat islands, particularly for vulnerable groups and minimise flood risk. It would be useful to initiate a pilot project that could be replicated across the city.
- The presentation highlighted the need to more fully and explicitly integrate flood attenuation strategies with spatial planning and land use and meet with our counterparts in the storm water management department to discuss how this might be possible.

**Theme: Public Participation and Cross Sectoral Integration:**

a) Linkages with civil society organisations

Linda Mbonambi had an opportunity to engage with Mr Uwe Ihssen Coordinator for Ecumenical and Global Responsibility, Department for Adult Education forum. The meeting discussed the strategic linkages on climate change and role of faith-based organisation in social and environmental justice. Mr Ihssen's organisation is willing and able to find a Durban-based organisation that will serve as a demonstration facility to turn into an eco-friendly venue relying on renewable energy. Secondly, the Adult Education Forum in Bremen is keen to facilitate an ecumenical partnership on climate change which will involve one of the Bremen's congregations and an INK-based congregation (preferably with affiliation to the Diakonia Council of Churches, their partner of long-standing). This partnership will go a long way to cement a civil society's outreach to people living in the Umhlangane Catchment area. It is recommended that the planning team co-ordinates a meeting between Diakonia Council of Churches and organized INK Faith-based Organisations with a view to make these links possible.

**b) Scaling up the community-University partnership**

The Bremen visit created links and possibilities to draw in other partners into existing BMZ funded initiatives such as the community-University partnership project which seeks to achieve the following in the Umhlangane Catchment:-

To ensure that climate adaption is not addressed but it is a researched and published intervention through collaborative authorship of research papers and reports.

- To ensure a healthy alignment/merger between a City-led and an activist perspective in climate adaptation efforts.
- To infuse climate adaptation into everyday work and ensure an effective multi-stakeholder engagement discourse.

To develop a toolkit for co-authoring and embedding the climate adaptation agenda into the research, teaching and learning in ongoing collaborations, partnerships and networks.

- To integrate non-formal and informal learning in the City-led interventions on climate adaptation.
- To facilitate the process of valuing community expertise, human resources, and compensation of community partners.

In the light of the connections made, it is recommended that opportunities for co-researching and co-authoring be extended to the Bremen colleagues with a view to strengthen the lessons on reflections for the implementation of climate adaptation strategies.

**c) Diversity communication tools**

The entire trip exposed the team into various projects, initiatives and sites. Numerous ideas were generated and several digital images were produced. Since these images constitute an important part of the harvest of the visit, it is noted that the existing report can only cover a limited amount of information. As such, it is recommended that the Durban-Bremen Cooperation project establish a web-page or website, a twitter, facebook and Linked-In accounts which will serve a repository of knowledge gained and more importantly serve as tools to share, learn and connect as climate adaptation and mitigation strategies with partner implementers as projects unfolds in the next years.

**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?**

We will be making more than one change!

The following are our Short and Long term goals for this specific workstream in the City Partnership:

Short Term Goals (to undertake in the next year):

- 1) To hold a workshop on 1 Specific topic every 3 months using Skype. This will ensure maximum knowledge sharing and minimum impact on budget and carbon footprint. The 3 suggested themes for the next year are:
  - a. Heat profiling
  - b. Strategies to achieve Brownfield Development
  - c. Strategies for a more collaborative public participation process for planning projects.
- 2) To prepare a collaborative paper/session at the Planning Africa Conference, to be held in Durban in October 2014. This will also be the next physical exchange for the planning partnership.
- 3) To Integrate work on Heat Profiling into the SDF for eThekwini, and to use Bremen best practice and guidance to achieve this.
- 4) To use Bremen best practice to inform the Sustainability Guidelines project

Long Term Goals (to be undertaken over a longer time scale than a year):

- 1) Integration of climate change into Area-Based Planning in eThekwini Municipality.
- 2) Expanding lessons, learnings and interventions from the work undertaken by the partnership to other parts of eThekwini in need

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

The Climate Change Partnership already has a 2 year history of networks and contacts, and this has been reported on after previous visits.

The visit strengthened these existing networks, and helped us to establish contact and begin new professional relationships with a number of key experts in the field of Planning for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

These include (but are not limited to):

- Tom Lecke-Lopatta
- Dr. Christof Voßeler
- Hartmut Eichhorn
- Klaus-Dieter Clausnitzer

**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](mailto:mile@durban.gov.za) so that it can be uploaded onto our website.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION**