



City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

05 April 2026

Chapter 1

Profile overview



About

Cape Town is South Africa's legislative capital and second largest economy. It is a vibrant, multi-cultural, growing City. Cape Town is considered the most biodiverse city globally given our position within the smallest yet richest floral kingdom, and diverse coastline. Cape Town is home to two World Heritage Sites: Cape Floristic Region (Table Mountain National Park and Kirstenbosch) and Robben Island, both with rich natural and cultural value.

Overview

4700000

Population size

South Africa

Country

Africa

Region



Geordin Hill-Lewis, Mayor of City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality

Head of government

Cape Town is proud to be a Pioneer City in the CitiesWithNature initiative, demonstrating our commitment to integrating nature and biodiversity into urban planning and sustainability efforts. This recognition highlights the City's dedication to protecting and enhancing natural assets and biodiversity while supporting economic growth and urban development. Through our spatial planning and City strategies, we strive to create a resilient and sustainable urban environment that balances biodiversity conservation with the needs of a growing and dynamic city.

Platform engagement statistics



28

Actions made on the Action Platform



17

Tools & Resources uploaded

Achievements

Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile
100% complete



Fronrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
0% complete

The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile
0% complete



Fronrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
100% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
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Chapter 2

The Action Platform



The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Action area 1

Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:

Protect, connect and restore ecosystems

Restore and/or rehabilitate terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to protecting, restoring and managing its natural areas to ensure their long-term sustainability and efficacy, and improve Cape Town's resilience to climate change. The City will work to ensure that its actions and decisions do not undermine the long term benefits provided by the natural environment and that the needs and interests of future generations will be considered and respected. The social, cultural, and economic value of the natural environment to communities, businesses and individuals, including green jobs, will be recognised, protected, made accessible and promoted. In taking decisions, operating, and planning for the future, the contribution (and associated value) of ecological infrastructure and ecosystem goods and services will be recognised, protected, and, where possible, proactively restored by the City. This links closely to the City's commitments as an IUCN Member City and Ramsar Wetland City.

Decrease conversion of natural areas and maintain natural/semi-natural areas

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to protecting, restoring and managing its natural areas to ensure their long-term sustainability and efficacy, and improve Cape Town's resilience to climate change. The City will work to ensure that its actions and decisions do not undermine the long term benefits provided by the natural environment and that the needs and interests of future generations will be considered and respected. The social, cultural, and economic value of the natural environment to communities, businesses and individuals, including green jobs, will be recognised, protected, made accessible and promoted. The City will continue to roll out spatially targeted development mechanisms to incentivise appropriate forms of residential, economic and social development. The City will adopt an urban design methodology that is environmentally sensitive and low impact, in order to ensure the long-term functionality of key ecological infrastructure. The envisaged developmental outcomes are more sustainable use of land and natural resources, which promotes an urban form with higher densities and mixed land use patterns in the urban inner core, lower carbon emissions, climate adaptation and efficient use of infrastructure, and effective public transport systems and amenities.

Increase protected areas

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to protecting, restoring and managing its natural areas to ensure their long-term sustainability and efficacy, and improve Cape Town's resilience to climate change. The City will work to ensure that its actions and decisions do not undermine the long term benefits provided by the natural environment and that the needs and interests of future generations will be considered and respected. The social, cultural, and economic value of the natural environment to communities, businesses and individuals, including green jobs, will be recognised, protected, made accessible and promoted. The City will work to expand land under conservation and manage biodiversity effectively, which includes the management and control of alien invasive species. The City recognises the importance of maintaining Cape Town's protected areas in a way that supports community access to nature as well as economic activity such as ecotourism. The City will ensure that the city's natural and semi-natural open spaces that protect indigenous biodiversity and landscapes and promote sustainable economic and recreational activities – including nature reserves, critical biodiversity areas, river corridors, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, and the coastline – are appropriately protected and managed. The land assessment protocol will be used for assessments based on the City's integrated development plan priorities, spatial planning and urban development policies, as part of the process of identifying land for development and release and/or acquisition.

Increase the extent of areas in the city that are conserved through Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to protecting, restoring and managing its natural areas to ensure their long-term sustainability and efficacy, and improve Cape Town's resilience to climate change. The City will work to ensure that its actions and decisions do not undermine the long term benefits provided by the natural environment and that the needs and interests of future generations will be considered and respected. The social, cultural, and economic value of the natural environment to communities, businesses and individuals, including green jobs, will be recognised, protected, made accessible and promoted. The City will work to expand land under conservation and manage biodiversity effectively, which includes the management and control of alien invasive species. The City recognises the importance of maintaining Cape Town's Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in a way that supports community access to nature as well as economic activity such as ecotourism. The City will ensure that the city's natural and semi-natural open spaces that protect indigenous biodiversity and landscapes and promote sustainable economic and recreational activities are appropriately conserved and managed.

Increase connectivity between natural areas

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to protecting, restoring and managing its natural areas to ensure their long-term sustainability and efficacy, and improve Cape Town's resilience to climate change. The City will work to ensure that its actions and decisions do not undermine the long term benefits provided by the natural environment and that the needs and interests of future generations will be considered and respected. The social, cultural, and economic value of the natural environment to communities, businesses and individuals, including green jobs, will be recognised, protected, made accessible and promoted. The City will consider all developments, including municipal infrastructural development, and land-use changes in terms of their potential impact on the city's natural heritage, and ensure that negative impacts are prevented, or where they cannot be prevented, minimised or mitigated. In addition, ensure that positive impacts are identified, maximised, and enhanced; with the city's natural and semi-natural open spaces that protect indigenous biodiversity and landscapes are appropriately protected and managed. Importantly, ensure ongoing implementation of the Biodiversity Network in order to protect a representative sample of biodiversity pattern, process and natural vegetation to meet national biodiversity targets.

Integrate ecosystem protection considerations across policies, plans and programmes.

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to protecting, restoring and managing its natural areas to ensure their long-term sustainability and efficacy, and improve Cape Town's resilience to climate change. The City will work to ensure that its actions and decisions do not undermine the long term benefits provided by the natural environment and that the needs and interests of future generations will be considered and respected. The social, cultural, and economic value of the natural environment to communities, businesses and individuals, including green jobs, will be recognised, protected, made accessible and promoted. The City will prioritise the protection of its ecosystem services and biodiversity-sensitive areas to ensure their long-term sustainability and improve Cape Town's resilience to climate change.

Commitment Made:

Conserve and restore fauna and flora

Maintain or increase the diversity of native species

Description of how city is taking action

The City's biodiversity strategy and action plan aims to: (1) Develop and maintain relevant policies and strategies to ensure alignment with relevant International, National, Provincial and City of Cape Town legislation, policies and strategies (protection of native fauna and flora); (2) Secure formal conservation status, manage, maintain and restore identified and existing terrestrial and wetland priority sites (provision of sites for such native fauna and flora to exist); (3) Identify, enhance and optimise socio-economic benefits and opportunities that are ecologically sustainable, focusing particularly on provision of green jobs and skills development programmes (inclusion of search-and-rescue operations along with alien invasive removal as part of Extended Public Works Programme operations); (4) Significantly reduce the threat posed by invasive species to Cape Town's natural, economic and social assets (thus reducing pressure of native species); (5) Increase communication efforts to enrich Cape Town citizens' knowledge of our local biodiversity (thus enhancing conservation of such species). The City's biodiversity strategy and action plan aims to develop and maintain relevant policies and strategies to ensure alignment with relevant International, National, Provincial and City of Cape Town legislation, policies and strategies; and to secure formal conservation status, manage, maintain and restore identified and existing terrestrial and wetland priority sites.

Restore habitat for threatened and locally valued species

Description of how city is taking action

The City's biodiversity strategy and action plan aims to: (1) Develop and maintain relevant policies and strategies to ensure alignment with relevant International, National, Provincial and City of Cape Town legislation, policies and strategies (protection of native fauna and flora); (2) Secure formal conservation status, manage, maintain and restore identified and existing terrestrial and wetland priority sites (provision of sites for such native fauna and flora to exist); (3) Identify, enhance and optimise socio-economic benefits and opportunities that are ecologically sustainable, focusing particularly on provision of green jobs and skills development programmes (inclusion of search-and-rescue operations along with alien invasive removal as part of Extended Public Works Programme operations); (4) Significantly reduce the threat posed by invasive species to Cape Town's natural, economic and social assets (thus reducing pressure of native species); (5) Increase communication efforts to enrich Cape Town citizens' knowledge of our local biodiversity (thus enhancing conservation of such species). The City's biodiversity strategy and action plan also aims to secure formal conservation status, manage, maintain and restore identified and existing terrestrial and wetland priority sites.

Commitment Made:

Manage invasive alien species

Identify and assess priority invasive alien species

Description of how city is taking action

The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) includes the need to significantly reduce the threat posed by invasive species to Cape Town's natural, economic and social assets. It is key to incorporate invasive species monitoring, control and eradication plans in the City's Integrated Development Plan. Linked thereto is the need to identify, enhance and optimise socio-economic benefits and opportunities that are ecologically sustainable focusing particularly on the provision of green jobs and skills development programmes through the use of workforce drawn via the Expanded Public Works Programme and others. The biodiversity strategy and action plan requires the collection, capture, collation and analysis of invasive species data, preparation and submission of invasive species reports as determined in the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) Section 76.

Control or eradicate invasive alien species and prevent their introduction

Description of how city is taking action

The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) includes the outcome of the need to significantly reduce the threat posed by invasive species to Cape Town's natural, economic and social assets. It is key to incorporate invasive species monitoring, control and eradication plans in the City's Integrated Development Plan. Linked thereto is the need to identify, enhance and optimise socio-economic benefits and opportunities that are ecologically sustainable focusing particularly on the provision of green jobs and skills development programmes through the use of workforce drawn via the Expanded Public Works Programme and others. Ensure invasive species monitoring, control and eradication plans are incorporated in the Integrated Development Plan.

Commitment Made:

Control Pollution

Reduce water pollution by biocides and excess nutrients from domestic and industrial sources to protect ecosystems and people's health.

Description of how city is taking action

The City aims to allow for a safe and healthy place to live, free from pollution, with access to quality public amenities and space. The City will in its decision, operating, and planning for the future ensure adherence to the principle of proactively preventing adverse environmental impacts, including the impacts of pollution and the generation of waste and, where this is not possible, minimising and managing those impacts. The City will take steps to reduce all forms of environmental degradation in both the City's own operations and in those of external stakeholders, including pollution of land, air, water, and the coast, through appropriate legislation, enforcement, infrastructural improvements, and environmental rehabilitation.

Reduce plastic consumption and the amount of plastic waste generated and discarded

Description of how city is taking action

The City aims to allow for a safe and healthy place to live, free from pollution, with access to quality public amenities and space. The City will in its decision, operating, and planning for the future ensure adherence to the principle of proactively preventing adverse environmental impacts,

including the impacts of pollution and the generation of waste and, where this is not possible, minimising and managing those impacts. Waste streams can generate economic and environmental benefits if managed sustainably. Enabling waste minimisation and recycling (including plastics) is a central focus of the waste management system of Cape Town, and the City will prioritise interventions that reduce waste to landfills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a resource-efficient economy.

Reduce other types of pollution, such as solid waste, air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution

Description of how city is taking action

The City aims to allow for a safe and healthy place to live, free from pollution, with access to quality public amenities and space. The City will in its decision, operating, and planning for the future ensure adherence to the principle of proactively preventing adverse environmental impacts, including the impacts of pollution and the generation of waste and, where this is not possible, minimising and managing those impacts. The City will take steps to ensure that the City is able to adequately deal with and treat both solid and liquid waste, and in doing so, prevent, minimise or mitigate the impacts of these waste products on the natural environment.

Commitment Made:

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Reduce the urban heat island effect by working with nature

Description of how city is taking action

The impacts of climate change have the potential to disrupt infrastructure, ecosystem services and general basic services provision in Cape Town, and disproportionately affect those who are already poor and vulnerable. The key climate-related hazards facing the city are heatwaves and high-heat days; decreased rainfall, drought and water scarcity; flood risk and storm damage; coastal erosion and sea-level rise, as well as fire risk. These risks occur in an already resource-constrained context, compounding existing challenges relating to energy provision, water resource management and biodiversity loss. The City will ensure a focus on resilience, enabling the city to withstand and mitigate the negative impacts of environmental hazards, proactively reduce Cape Town's vulnerability, and protect the city's economy. The City is committed to protecting, restoring and managing its natural areas to ensure their long-term sustainability. The municipality recognises that its green infrastructure is important to Cape Town's resilience to climate change, and for reducing the impact of shock events such as floods and heatwaves.

Increase the use of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation

Description of how city is taking action

The impacts of climate change have the potential to disrupt infrastructure, ecosystem services and general basic services provision in Cape Town, and disproportionately affect those who are already poor and vulnerable. The key climate-related hazards facing the city are heatwaves and high-heat days; decreased rainfall, drought and water scarcity; flood risk and storm damage; coastal erosion and sea-level rise, as well as fire risk. These risks occur in an already resource-constrained context, compounding existing challenges relating to energy provision, water resource management and biodiversity loss. The City will ensure a focus on resilience, enabling the city to withstand and mitigate the negative impacts of environmental hazards, proactively reduce Cape Town's vulnerability, and protect the city's economy. The City will proactively adapt basic services infrastructure in response to climate change, and will reduce Cape Town's carbon footprint by pursuing energy security and better public transport services. The City is also working to shift the way in which service infrastructure is designed and managed to achieve climate change objectives, which is one of the key informants of the City's utility business model reforms.

Promote integration of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches into urban infrastructure maintenance & development.

Description of how city is taking action

The impacts of climate change have the potential to disrupt infrastructure, ecosystem services and general basic services provision in Cape Town, and disproportionately affect those who are already poor and vulnerable. The key climate-related hazards facing the city are heatwaves and high-heat days; decreased rainfall, drought and water scarcity; flood risk and storm damage; coastal erosion and sea-level rise, as well as fire risk. These risks occur in an already resource-constrained context, compounding existing challenges relating to energy provision, water resource management and biodiversity loss. The City will ensure a focus on resilience, enabling the city to withstand and mitigate the negative impacts of environmental hazards, proactively reduce Cape Town's vulnerability, and protect the city's economy. The City's Climate Change Strategy includes the requirement to ensure that Cape Town's ecosystems are sustainable and resilient, with increasing reliance on nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for supporting service delivery and providing ecosystem services that support climate change response.

Increase the carbon sequestration potential of urban nature

Description of how city is taking action

The impacts of climate change have the potential to disrupt infrastructure, ecosystem services and general basic services provision in Cape Town, and disproportionately affect those who are already poor and vulnerable. The key climate-related hazards facing the city are heatwaves and high-heat days; decreased rainfall, drought and water scarcity; flood risk and storm damage; coastal erosion and sea-level rise, as well as fire risk. These risks occur in an already resource-constrained context, compounding existing challenges relating to energy provision, water resource management and biodiversity loss. The City will ensure a focus on resilience, enabling the city to withstand and mitigate the negative impacts of environmental hazards, proactively reduce Cape Town's vulnerability, and protect the city's economy. The City will work to ensure that its actions and decisions retain, restore, expand and optimise sustainability, ecosystem functioning and green infrastructure, and that such work is integrated into the City's development path in order to adapt to climate change impacts and enhance carbon sequestration. The City will strongly discourage activities that damage, destroy, or reduce the sustainability or integrity of ecosystems and green infrastructure.



Action area 2

Use nature sustainably

Commitment Made:

Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry

Include biodiversity in decision-making about the development and management of urban agriculture, - aquaculture and - forestry.

Description of how city is taking action

Food security and access is an ongoing concern in Cape Town, often driven by high levels of unemployment and poverty. However, during the pandemic and resultant lockdown, the situation deteriorated significantly. The City will work with partners to strengthen the food systems in Cape Town, including assessing how land use management and regulations on agriculture and business activities affect food production and access. The City will focus on developing appropriate mechanisms to reduce future food systems shocks resulting from disaster events. The City will adopt an urban design methodology that is environmentally sensitive and low impact, in order to ensure the long-term functionality of key ecological infrastructure in its decisions, operating and planning for the future.

Commitment Made:

Promote people's access to green and blue spaces

Increase equitable and inclusive access to nature to enhance people's health and wellbeing.

Description of how city is taking action

In taking decisions, operating, and planning for the future, equitable access will be promoted by the City, with an enhanced focus on the needs of vulnerable groups and improving living environments. The City is committed to removing and reducing barriers to inclusion and well-being. This is achieved through the provision of adequate public services and assets, being an enabler for the poor and vulnerable in society to be uplifted and assisted. Waterways that are safe, healthy and functional are essential in making Cape Town a water-sensitive city. The City will invest in cleaning up rivers and vleis (wetlands) and combating sources of pollution. The City will restore and improve priority coastal infrastructure and ecological processes, with a focus on improving resilience to climate change impacts. Functional, attractive and safe public spaces contribute significantly to environmental sustainability, job creation and enterprise development. Therefore, the City will develop, manage and activate quality public spaces in key precincts, in partnership with local stakeholders. Community-based cultural development and cultural spaces will be promoted to improve social cohesion, create a sense of belonging, and support entrepreneurs in the arts-and-culture and local tourism sectors. Note that many of the City's cultural spaces are linked to "green" spaces. The City is committed to improve the health of the urban environment for residents to live, work and interact in. The City will leverage quality recreation programmes and community partnerships to effectively manage, develop and utilise sport and recreation facilities and public parks. These amenities provide the space for healthy exercise and are vital in encouraging healthy and active lifestyles. The City will work to make it easier to use parks for economic and social activities such as markets. This will further increase the vibrancy of these public spaces and build revenue streams to supplement maintenance costs. Key to this process is the fostering of "friends groups". Friends groups play a part in enhancing local parks, community facilities and open spaces, and give locals a greater say in how their green spaces are managed and developed. Enabling these friends groups to effectively contribute is critical to the ongoing value and sustainability of these services, and the City will ensure that it is a good partner in this regard.

Enable meaningful experiences of nature for the health and well-being of urban communities

Description of how city is taking action

In taking decisions, operating, and planning for the future, equitable access will be promoted by the City, with an enhanced focus on the needs of vulnerable groups and improving living environments. The City is committed to removing and reducing barriers to inclusion and well-being. This is achieved through the provision of adequate public services and assets, being an enabler for the poor and vulnerable in society to be uplifted and assisted. Waterways that are safe, healthy and functional are essential in making Cape Town a water-sensitive city. The City will invest in cleaning up rivers and vleis (wetlands) and combating sources of pollution. The City will restore and improve priority coastal infrastructure and ecological processes, with a focus on improving resilience to climate change impacts. Functional, attractive and safe public spaces contribute significantly to environmental sustainability, job creation and enterprise development. Therefore, the City will develop, manage and activate quality public spaces in key precincts, in partnership with local stakeholders. Community-based cultural development and cultural spaces will be promoted to improve social cohesion, create a sense of belonging, and support entrepreneurs in the arts-and-culture and local tourism sectors. Note that many of the City's cultural spaces are linked to "green" spaces. The City will work with communities to improve the quality and safety of parks, recreational facilities and public spaces, being an important part of a neighbourhood's character and social fabric. Functional, attractive and safe public spaces contribute significantly to environmental sustainability, job creation and enterprise development.

Other commitments under this action area

Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species



Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions

Commitment Made:

Mainstreaming biodiversity values

Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into local policies, strategies, environmental assessments, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies and accounts

Description of how city is taking action

Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning are integrated into the City's planning from being a key aspect in the City's Integrated Development Plan, specifically the Environmental Strategy and Cape Town Biodiversity Spatial Plan (City policy) but integrated into other strategies, down into a range of policies, and cascading down into the City's various planning, implementation and management tools. To this end such values are already integrated into the City's Integrated Development Plan and specifically the City's Environmental Strategy.

Commitment Made:

Sustainable production and consumption

Promote sustainable practices in production and consumption across all economic sectors.

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to strengthening its budget planning and implementation process through the Strategic Management Framework. This framework ensures that budget allocations align closely with the priorities and programmes in the City's five-year plan (including environmental aspects) and are focused on projects that will yield the most benefit in achieving the IDP's strategic objectives. The City will continue to enhance policy and strategy formulation and strategic planning to ensure sound and effective policy decisions and strategy-led budgeting. The intention is for all City planning and budgeting to be based on sound evidence to ensure effective and responsive service delivery to residents. The City will leverage the full potential of administrative data, data analytics and data science to achieve this. The City will promote the reduction of waste production across all sectors of society and the improvement of waste management, including the reuse of waste products and recycling; actively promote and implement a shift to renewable energy resources and energy efficient technologies in the domestic, commercial, industrial and government sectors. The City will actively promote and implement a shift to water efficient technologies in the domestic, commercial, industrial and government sectors; promote localised food production and/or urban agriculture to reduce the impact of food distribution costs and losses and to improve food security; and actively increase the City's own contribution to resource efficiency through directed green procurement.

Reduce the city's material consumption

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to strengthening its budget planning and implementation process through the Strategic Management Framework. This framework ensures that budget allocations align closely with the priorities and programmes in the City's five-year plan (including environmental aspects) and are focused on projects that will yield the most benefit in achieving the IDP's strategic objectives. The City will ensure that resource efficiency and low-carbon development are embedded in all aspects of its work. The City will take steps to reduce consumption of resources in communities where resource use is high, while actively improving affordability of, access to, and sustainable use of resources in communities that have limited access. Further, support and drive the implementation of innovative technologies and behavioural changes that promote resource efficiency.

Provide urban residents with information for sustainable consumption and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Description of how city is taking action

The City will ensure that resource efficiency and low-carbon development are embedded in all aspects of its work. The City will take steps to reduce consumption of resources in communities where resource use is high, while actively improving affordability of, access to, and sustainable use of resources in communities that have limited access. Further, support and drive the implementation of innovative technologies and behavioural changes that promote resource efficiency. A key initiative in this regard is the City's Environmental Education programme with development of grass-roots sustainable living tools (refer to City's Smart Living programme guidelines in reference).

Commitment Made:

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management

Promote inclusive monitoring, evaluation and learning

Description of how city is taking action

The City will continue to enhance policy and strategy formulation and strategic planning to ensure sound and effective policy decisions and strategy-led budgeting. The City will leverage the full potential of administrative data, data analytics and data science to achieve this. The City is committed to excellence in project, programme, portfolio, engineering services and contract management. The programme is ultimately critical to improve service delivery to Cape Town's residents. The City will improve its ability to track changes in the built environment so as to determine whether the spatial planning policy is being implemented. This, in turn, will inform policy regulation and the development of mechanisms to measure whether incentives, investments and land release programmes (across City operations) are achieving the desired outcomes.

Promote the value of nature through awareness and education campaigns

Description of how city is taking action

The City will continue to enhance policy and strategy formulation and strategic planning to ensure sound and effective policy decisions and strategy-led budgeting. The City will leverage the full potential of administrative data, data analytics and data science to achieve this. The City is committed to excellence in project, programme, portfolio, engineering services and contract management. The programme is ultimately critical to improve service delivery to Cape Town's residents. Education and empowerment of all citizens of Cape Town will be prioritised and promoted through the implementation of the Environmental Strategy. The City will prioritise environmental education, awareness, training, and communication as means of improving environmental quality in the city; make information available to all people on how to live, work and play in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner; recognise at all times that individual accountability and responsibility of each citizen is dependent on an empowered and informed citizenry; enable citizens to engage with the City on an ongoing basis on ways to improve implementation of the City's environmental principles; and lead by example in the implementation of resource efficient and environmentally sensitive technologies.

Commitment Made:

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Support and strengthen participation of local and indigenous communities, women, youth and other vulnerable groups in the management of urban nature

Description of how city is taking action

The City is committed to addressing the injustice of apartheid spatial planning, which is reinforced by persistent inequality in Cape Town. In performing its role of providing public infrastructure and regulating the built environment, the City will ensure that urban growth contributes to a more inclusive, integrated and vibrant city. The City will improve its methods of public participation and consultation to empower residents to contribute to decisions on matters that directly affect them. In taking decisions, operating, and planning for the future, the City will ensure that the value of the city's cultural heritage is recognised, protected and promoted, and that the benefits and opportunities it provides to communities are realised. Community-based cultural development and cultural spaces with respect to public open spaces (including protected areas) will be promoted to improve social cohesion, create a sense of belonging, and support entrepreneurs in the arts-and-culture and local tourism sectors.

Commitment Made:

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

Increase financial and technical support for biodiversity actions

Description of how city is taking action

In implementing its Infrastructure Planning and Delivery Framework, the City will maintain a consolidated, prioritised ten-year pipeline of infrastructure projects (including projects linked to biodiversity assets). Development trends and associated infrastructure capacity constraints will be analysed, to prioritise investments, particularly backlogs, and consider alternative service delivery models. This initiative will also improve infrastructure investment coordination in specific areas, precincts and large projects. Through this initiative proactive project preparation and delivery support will be provided. The City will strengthen the business case for increased investment in natural assets and green infrastructure, and will develop a pipeline of green infrastructure projects.

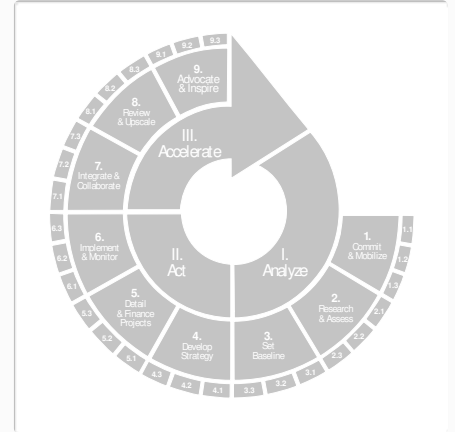
Chapter 3

Nature Pathway



Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



I. Analyze

1. Commit & mobilize

No uploads or resources have been linked

2. Research & assess

No uploads or resources have been linked

3. Set Baseline

No uploads or resources have been linked

II. Act

4. Develop strategy

No uploads or resources have been linked

5. Detail & finance projects

No uploads or resources have been linked

6. Implement & monitor

No uploads or resources have been linked

III. Accelerate

7. Integrate & collaborate

No uploads or resources have been linked

8. Review & upscale

No uploads or resources have been linked

9. Advocate & inspire

Chapter 4

City Biodiversity Index



City Biodiversity Index

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

Native biodiversity in the city

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points

City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality has not started on this biodiversity index section

Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points

City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality has not started on this biodiversity index section

Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points

City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality has not started on this biodiversity index section

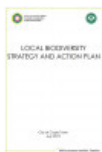
Chapter 5

Tools & resources



Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.



City of Cape Town: Local biodiversity strategy and action plan

March 14, 2022

The City of Cape Town is a biodiversity hotspot without parallel. This document is the updated and revised LBSAP. The LBSAP has been divided into two parts: the strategy component (Part 1) and the action plan 2019-2029 (Part 2).

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



City of Cape Town: Integrated Coastal Management Policy

March 14, 2022

The City of Cape Town Municipality has an extensive coastline of 307km which is an important economic, social and environmental asset. ... imperative that the City implement a policy that not only optimises the value of the coast and protects it as a common asset for all but one that also creates a framework for the effective governance, decision-making and management of our coastline in the best interests of our city and its communities.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



City of Cape Town: Climate Change Strategy

March 14, 2022

The purpose of this strategy is to provide high-level strategic guidance for decision making, planning, and programme and project development and implementation in respect of climate change. ... read in conjunction with the City's Climate Change Action Plan.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



Environmental Strategy for the City of Cape Town (Policy Number 46612)

March 14, 2022

Vision: To enhance, protect and manage Cape Town's natural and cultural resources for long term prosperity, in a way that promotes access and social well-being, and optimises economic opportunities.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



City of Cape Town Climate Change Action Plan 2021

March 14, 2022

The City of Cape Town is building on a 20-year history of climate change response through strategy, policy and planning, in addition to programme and project implementation.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



Cape Town State of Environment Report 2018

March 14, 2022

The City of Cape Town has emphasised the importance of sustainable development and resilience by including these as integral principles to guide its key strategic plan – the Integrated Development Plan 2017-2022. This State of Cape Town report has adopted the lenses of resilience and sustainable development to review and analyse key data and trends in Cape Town across four themes of economy, society, natural and built environment.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths

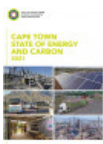


Cape Town Biodiversity Report 2018

March 14, 2022

Cape Town's natural beauty and biodiversity are part of what makes the city a unique and desirable place to live and work. The city urban footprint coincides with many unique vegetation types. Despite many challenges, good progress has been made in implementing the Biodiversity Network (BioNet). The CCT, together with key partners, will continue to address the biodiversity conservation crisis in Cape Town.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



Cape Town State of Energy and Carbon 2021

April 04, 2022

This fourth iteration of Cape Town's State of Energy report, aims to provide a data-rich evidence base for decision makers, support for researchers and planners, as well as operational transparency in the important energy sector, both in municipal operations and the wider Cape Town. This publication also showcases the continued high performance of the City's distribution utility in difficult circumstances, of which customers are often unaware. In addition, the data serves as an essential input for the City's new Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan produced this year, which will be even more ambitious than previous versions. Since emissions data constitutes such a key component of this report, its title has been changed to State of Energy and Carbon.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



Cape Town Smart Office Handbook

April 04, 2022

Toolkit for sustainable living: Going 'green' is no longer a trend; it is the responsibility of every business, big or small, that operates in what is acknowledged to be the 'new reality'. Every action we take, every piece of equipment we use, every meeting we have, every item or service we buy has an impact on our world – either positive or negative.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



Cape Town Smart Living Handbook: a practical guide to sustainable living

April 04, 2022

This handbook aims to provide you with information and practical actions to implement – to protect the environment, save money and make your home a safer place to live in. Collectively, we can make a difference and become more resilient.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



Cape Town Resource Efficiency for Development booklet: one-stop reference guide to policies, legal directives and guidelines

April 04, 2022

This Resource Efficiency Criteria for Development document is a reference guide to a large number of policies, legal directives, and guidelines that form part of the City's overall sustainability framework related to the built environment, and presents them conveniently in one document.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



My Clean Green Home virtual walkthrough: Cape Town's first net zero carbon model home

April 04, 2022

In partnership with the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA), the My Clean Green Home design competition called for professionals and students to develop a home that demonstrates sustainable living in action. The winning design from Team Mahali, is an innovative, modular 'house in a box' covered by an overarching tree-like structure made from upcycled and locally available materials. The design for the net zero carbon home incorporates solar power generation, energy efficient appliances, passive cooling, rainwater harvesting and an edible food garden. The design was transformed into a pop-up exhibition for visitors to explore net zero carbon living first-hand.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



Getting to Zero: guidelines for Net Zero Carbon developments

April 04, 2022

This guide is an overview of the concept of net zero carbon buildings in South Africa, and gives guidance and references to approaching a net zero project. The focus is on new and existing commercial buildings, mainly offices, with some reference to the residential sector.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



Smart Buildings web hub: aims to promote smart, healthy, energy-efficient buildings powered by clean energy

April 04, 2022

The Smart Buildings campaign aims to connect South Africans to the process of transforming the spaces where we live, learn, work and play. We want you to help shape the laws and policies that will guide the development of smarter, greener buildings in our cities – buildings that are better for both people and the planet.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



City of Cape Town's five-year Integrated Development Plan (2022-2027)

November 01, 2022

The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is the central strategy of the City of Cape Town (the City). The IDP communicates to residents, businesses and investors the City's long-term vision, and how the City plans to achieve it. This new term-of-office IDP will ensure that the City addresses what is not working, and continues to serve its residents and support the growth of Cape Town to make the Mother City a City of Hope for all.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



City of Cape Town State of the Environment 2022

November 02, 2022

The State of the Environment Report is a critical instrument for monitoring and reporting on changes to Cape Town's natural environment. This provides the City and external stakeholders with accurate data and information to support decision-making and management responses aimed at reducing environmental risks and degradation.

Author/s: Bronwen Griffiths



City of Cape Town Wetland Report

July 29, 2025

The present report has thus been commissioned by the City, to draw attention to the existence, importance, condition and level of threat of non-recreational, particularly seasonal wetlands within its boundaries. The intention of the report is to highlight these systems and recommend useful monitoring and/or other measures to allow long-term tracking of wetland condition and to inform conservation and other imperatives.

Author/s: Charmaine Oxtoby



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