



## Attendance:

### Government Representatives

- Councillor Johan Van der Merwe, Energy, Environment and Spatial Planning Mayco Member, City of Cape Town
- Elizabeth Brunette, Councillor (Ward 62), City of Cape Town
- Simon Liell-Cock, Ward Councillor, City of Cape Town
- Brett Myrdal, General Manager: Environmental Planning and Urban Protected Areas Research, South African National Parks (SANParks)
- Stephen Granger, Head: Major Programme and Plans, Environmental Resource Department, City of Cape Town
- Dalton Gibbs, Section Ranger, Biodiversity Management, City of Cape Town
- Patricia Holmes, Biodiversity Management, City of Cape Town
- Jess Kavonic, Major Programme and Plans Assistant, Environmental Resource Department, City of Cape Town
- Hannah Benn, Major Programme and Plans Intern, Environmental Resource Department, City of Cape Town
- Richard Burns, Green Jobs Unit (Invasive), Biodiversity Management, City of Cape Town
- Luyanda Mjuleni, City Parks, City of Cape Town
- Marley Kimmelman, International Intern, Environmental Resource Department, City of Cape Town.

### Research Institutes

- Boitshekwane Kgantsi, Intern and MSc Student (UCT), South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- Gregg Brill, PhD student, University of Cape Town

### **Project Partners**

- Ellika Hermansson Török, Senior Advisor at Swedbio, Stockholm Resilience Center
- Shela Patrickson, Manager, ICLEI – Cities Biodiversity Center
- Georgina Avlonitis, Professional Officer and Project Manager (UNA Africa), ICLEI – Cities Biodiversity Center
- Russell Galt, Program Coordinator, SANBI

### **Consultants**

- Karen Stewart, Facilitator, Owner and Founder of the Ah Ha Company
- Lauren Shantall, Owner and Director of Lauren Shantall – Integrated solutions and perception management
- Sam Braid, Professional Officer at Aurecon (Watershed Project Manager)

### **NGO representatives and community members**

- Mandy Noffke, Conservation Projects Manager, Wildlife and Environmental Society of SA (WESSA)
- Anthony Roberts, CEO of Cape Town Education Environmental Trust (CTEET)
- Sandra Fowkes, Zandvlei Trust and former campaign director, Ukuvuka Operation Firestop
- John Fowkes, Zandvlei Trust
- James Forsyth, Friends of the Constantia Valley Greenbelts and Friends of the Tokai park
- James Rawlings, Friends of the Constantia Valley Greenbelts
- Megan Pringle, BEN Bikes
- Bridgette Pitt, Princess Vlei Forum
- George Davis, Princess Vlei Forum

### **Private Sector**

- Nicky Cloete-Hopkins, Owner of the Alphen Hotel

## **Introduction:**

**UNA Africa Cape Town Source to Sea ThinkTank:** The first in a series of two community engagements held in the framework of the project, Urban Natural Assets for Africa Project (UNA Africa), Cape Town, South Africa.

**Dates:** 26 - 27 March 2015 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

**Venue:** Rondevlei Boma, Rondevlei Nature Reserve (Day 1) and Alphen Hotel/Diep River (Day 2)

**Convenor:** ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

**Sponsor:** Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

**Partners:** African Center for Cities, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), GBIF Secretariat and SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre

## **UNA Africa Background:**

The project, "Urban Natural Assets for Africa Project," (UNA Africa) facilitated and lead by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation through SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre, is a project under the global Urban Biosphere Initiative (URBIS). UNA Africa is designed to improve human

well-being and contribute to poverty alleviation and building resilience of the urban poor, through building local government capacity to enhance local implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity targets to conserve and protect nature in cities in sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Source to Sea Ecological Corridor:**

The Source to Sea initiative, whereby water quality and quantity is managed so as to support maximum biodiversity while also ensuring optimal utilisation of river corridors for the sustained benefit of all users, is envisaged for a number of river catchments within the Cape Town Metropole. The project seeks to restore river corridors so that they are ecologically, socially and economically sustainable, enhancing the quality of life for local communities while maximising recreational opportunities and protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In this way, the project aims to maximise urban natural recreational space, restore degraded natural and open space corridors for biodiversity conservation, improve water quality, link river corridors and catchments via recreational multi-use trails, enhance eco-heritage, provide educational and tourism opportunities and develop both short and long term local employment opportunities.

### **Source to Sea ThinkTank:**

The UNA Africa Cape Town Source to Sea ThinkTank, held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, was organised by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, with the support of project partners SANBI, the African Center for Cities (ACC), the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) and substantial input and support from the City of Cape Town. The ThinkTank was facilitated by Karen Stewart (owner and founder of The Ah HA Company) and brought together a key communication and marketing expert, Lauren Shantall, and key actors currently playing an integral role in developing the vision for a Source to Sea corridor in the Sand River Catchment.

### **Source to Sea Site Visit:**

As part of this consultation, a site visit was organised for the second day (27 March 2015) of the workshop and saw delegates walking down the Diep River, a Source to Sea corridor that connects the Table Mountain National Park with municipal nature reserves. The Site Visit aimed to present a balanced, holistic perspective on urban protected area challenges and riverine systems by showcasing the vision for one of the potential Source to Sea river corridors within the Sand River Catchment. The Diep River walk started at the Constantia Greenbelt and ended at the politically sensitive area of Princess Vlei.

### **Workshop Outcomes and Objectives:**

In the past much rehabilitation and river management work has taken place within the catchment, under the auspices of landowners, user / interest groups and local authorities and organisations. However, a catchment approach has been limited with limited communication occurring between operational and higher level groups, between City departments and between ad hoc projects taking place within the catchment. Similarly, the catchment lacks an institutional framework, a detailed business plan and a project co-ordinator.

The Source to Sea ThinkTank aimed to bring together key actors currently part of the Sand River Catchment Forum, important neighbouring wards, NGO's, City departments, external organisations and representatives of recreational users and local land owners to give input into the creation of an awareness campaign which is critical to the adoption of this project vision.

The ThinkTank aimed to bolster the work of role-players already involved in communication, education and public awareness campaigns with communities around the catchment and to increase the capacity for an integrated approach to catchment management. Through assisting with developing a targeted, innovative and community inspired campaign, the project aims to contribute towards maximising recreational opportunities, enhancing people's knowledge of eco-heritage, catalysing educational, eco-tourism and employment opportunities along the catchment and providing a platform for communication and support across transversal barriers.

The key **objectives** of the UNA Cape Town Source to Sea ThinkTank include:

- Catalyse the implementation of some of the Source to Sea project's objectives (increased public buy-in, awareness and coordination of activities) through an awareness campaign, which not only brands the Source to Sea river corridor, cementing it as a connected catchment in people's minds but also brings the biodiversity, ecological and recreational services of the area to life, showcasing them to the residents and neighbouring communities who may not understand all the wonders and benefits the catchment possesses and the importance and means of assisting in its sustainably use and management.
- Identify *how and where* to communicate the relevant information (i.e. infographics, social media campaigns, websites, newspapers, school/community competitions etc.)

## Day 1: Source to Sea ThinkTank:

### Morning Session:

Through presentations, much of the morning session was dedicated to outlining and defining the contextual background of the Urban Natural Assets project, the importance of urban nature in a radically urbanising world, the vision for the Source to Sea river corridor project and the finer points of effective communication and awareness-raising.

Key interactive sessions then introduced and connected the stakeholders in the room while a 'Gallery Walk' helped outline the key initiatives and projects currently occurring in the catchment as well as identified challenges and missing interventions. This provided an information platform for the engagement of participants later in the afternoon.

### Some of the main results are captured below:

[Vision for the Source to Sea Project](#) (presented by Mandy Noffke, WESSA)

**Table 1: Overview of the Source to Sea Corridor Project**

<b>Vision</b>	<i>“Maximize urban natural recreational spaces, restore degraded natural and open space corridors for biodiversity conservation, link corridors via recreational multi-use trails, develop eco-heritage, educational and tourism opportunities and provide short and long-term local employment opportunities”</i>
<b>Importance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- need to conserve biodiversity as vegetation types corridor passes through are critically endangered</li> <li>- Globally unique corridor linking biodiversity and heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	Linking civil society with higher level. Need to create synergies and place for interaction of different catchment initiatives
<b>Opportunities</b>	Large civil society input
<b>Current Work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action plan for the Prinskasteel/ Keysers river system (2005/2006)</b> <i>Implementation and management tool, providing extensive field data</i></li> <li>- <b>Princess Trail Project (2009)</b> <i>Maps existing and potential linkages as well as challenges and constraints of developing a multi-use trail on the Prinskasteel/Keysers</i></li> <li>- <b>Input towards the development of an integrated implementation strategy for the Source to Sea concept (2001/2012)</b> <i>Provides an implementation plan for the 10 individual sub catchment/management areas within the Sand River Catchment</i></li> </ul>

Effective Communications and Awareness Raising (presented by Lauren Shantall)

**Table 2: Overview of the main communication and awareness raising points**

<b>Tell your story</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Look at best practice</li> <li>- Need to disrupt the way people think!</li> </ul>
<b>Communicate the BIG IDEA</b>	This needs to be a simple idea and it needs to work for the public
<b>Use different communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launch (i.e. 'ice-bucket challenge' but pick up buckets of trash)</li> <li>- Website (currently NO website, "source to sea" URL already exists)</li> <li>- Social media campaign (i.e. hashtag)</li> <li>- Publicity campaign (i.e. 'One day without shoes')</li> <li>- Ambassadors (also community representatives)</li> <li>- "Icon" or species to be face of the catchment</li> <li>- Advertising</li> <li>- Stakeholder communications / Relationship building</li> <li>- Establish a communications team (i.e. could tell 'stories of change')</li> <li>- Use of local community knowledge</li> <li>- Use of existing champion forums</li> <li>- Political buy -in</li> </ul> <p>Move away from having a project and then advertising. Rather have a cause people can relate too</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use existing small projects/ small project initiation</li> </ul>

Gallery Walk

**Table 3: Overview of the current interventions, challenges and potential interventions as they relate to safety, job creation, activities and rehabilitation**

<b>SAFETY</b>			
	<b>Current interventions</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Potential interventions</b>
<b>'River wardens'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neighbourhood watches and CPFs</li> <li>- Clearing alien invasive species (through Green Jobs unit and EPWP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessibility</li> <li>- On the ground management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of horse rider patrols</li> <li>- Officers who have knowledge of bi-laws and legislation</li> <li>- Lighting and surveillance in strategic areas</li> </ul>
<b>Sense of ownership and public pride</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pride of maintenance teams</li> <li>- Resident ownership</li> <li>- Improved water quality</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More cycle/walking paths</li> <li>- Improved emphasis of impact of river and open spaces on increased property value</li> <li>- Guided hikes (including full moon walks)</li> </ul>
<b>Increased usage and better safety</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create safety by using 'working wardens'- i.e. using workers/alien clearers as eyes and ears on the ground.</li> </ul>
<b>Improved safety and security through partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of EPWP workers creates a sense of pride and reduces vandalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>- Political buy-in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage property owners to change walls to fences</li> <li>- Law enforcement on horseback</li> <li>- Park Rangers / security officers</li> </ul>
<b>PROSPERITY AND JOB CREATION</b>			
<b>Guided Walks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A few friends groups have been leading these with some success</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage with tourism office and surrounding accommodation to advertise to tourists</li> <li>- Community awareness and education</li> <li>- Train green jobs + EPWP river wardens to conduct tours</li> </ul>
<b>Biking Tours</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perhaps set up a bike tour for urbanised sections of the river, in collaboration with BEN bikes.</li> </ul>
<b>Eco-stalls</b> (locals selling local produce/crafts at places along the corridor)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop 'boskos' initiatives as businesses - Link with Loubie Rusch's work</li> </ul>

<b>Providing training for bee keeping</b> for local land-owners		(Be careful of commercial hives swamping indigenous pollinators)	- Extend to other recreational activities
<b>Clean up teams</b>	- Clearing alien invasive species (through Green Jobs unit and EPWP)		- Volunteer groups - Adopt a section of the river - Widening river and removing canals
<b>Employment of river wardens</b>	- Large amount of civil society impetus		- Job security for green jobs + EPWP workers - Environmental education for green workers - Use river wardens for visible policing - Address parking issues at Alphen Hotel
<b>Tourism</b>	- Existing Greenbelts		- Engagement with BnB, Hotels, Tour Operators - Catchment manger and co-ordination of activities and interventions - Encourage local community to fund their small project
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Bike/ Walking Tours</b>	- Dog friendly walking paths - Specific use areas	- Connection of routes	- Paddling route/race Diep River Dusi - Source to Sea events (Triathlon or trail run) - Heritage Trail connecting green belt's farms, cemeteries, Princess Vlei etc. - Reeds to mats (Craft) - Integrate birdathon into the Source to Sea concept - Create beautiful website - Create walking map with points of interest
<b>Picnics</b>			
<b>Eco-Awareness Days</b>			- Educational Community radio - Work with neighbouring businesses and places of worship - Make use of school environmental project - Recyclable arts and crafts - Sunset concerts like Kirstenbosch (use local

			performers)
<b>Competitions</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trail and cross country competitions</li> <li>- Geo-caching Treasure Hunt along corridor</li> <li>- Public art competition</li> </ul>
<b>Selling refreshments and distributing maps and info</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involvement of local community</li> </ul>
<b>Educational Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Info boards done seasonally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vandalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Info and status boards throughout catchment</li> <li>- Outdoor classrooms</li> </ul>
<b>Create a user friendly eco-map with local attractions</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote local biodiversity walks: fynbos/bird/tree guided walks</li> <li>- Promote local businesses: Alphen/coffee shops/potential eco-stalls</li> <li>- Painted feet on pavement through urban areas</li> <li>- Label stormwater drains to see where water comes from</li> </ul>
<b>REHABILITATION</b>			
<b>Continue efforts to eliminate alien vegetation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pine removal and rehabilitation</li> <li>- Visual dashboard – report Water Quality</li> <li>- Re-vegetation of Kirstenhof Wetlands and Dreyersdal farm</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education of Farmers</li> <li>- Research into Willingness to Pay for conservation work</li> <li>- Establish and address the sources of nutrients that causes invasion by water weeds</li> <li>- Appoint a catchment manager</li> <li>- Consolidation of rehabilitation needs on consolidated map</li> </ul>
<b>Community-led clean ups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Newsletter</li> <li>- Signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication and education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compliant with legislation and WWTW (order a directive)</li> <li>- Involve local schools to educate children about biodiversity</li> <li>- Examine rubbish in Vlei and recourse to private sector producers</li> </ul>
<b>Stop illegal dumping</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislation</li> <li>- Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creativity around using recycled goods from dumped waste</li> </ul>



		Accountability	
<b>Connect to West Lake communities</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planting vegetation in private gardens</li> <li>- Look at the socio-economics of users, who uses catchment, where and why</li> </ul>
<b>Target inappropriate waste disposal and illegal dumping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevention of pool water and sewerage entering river</li> <li>- Record of water (chemistry quality) as it leaves TMNP vs later</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Control river eutrophic action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data on sources of nutrients/pollutants</li> <li>- Action against polluters</li> </ul>

In this way, a key outcome of the morning's session was that for forward action it is imperative to **source financial commitment from stakeholders for implementation**. This funding should go towards appointing a catchment/project manager. This principal should guide the investment of this capital expenditure as well as construct and implement a catchment business plan. Funding should then also ensure maintenance and management of the catchment initiatives.

However, it was identified that a major problem currently in sourcing this funding, and a major barrier to implementation and sustainability of the Source to Sea project, is the **lack of an integrated communication campaign**.

As a vital part of establishing an awareness and communication campaign the Source to Sea project needs to be **innovatively branded**. This branding should be identifiable and consistent with design guidelines and a 'landscape theme' that can be used with existing and upcoming initiatives and actions along the corridor. The 'Vision' of the project can help to influence imagery and content used in the branding and must ensure continuity and sustainability, consistently delivering on its brand promise. Emphasis was placed on the need to communicate a central idea – which potentially could be that the Source to Sea project is a platform that links all catchment initiatives – and that central to all communication and awareness building is the value of making use of small existing projects for initiation.



***Presentations:*** Dedicated to outlining and defining the contextual background of the Urban Natural Assets project, the importance of urban nature in a radically urbanising world, the vision for the Source to Sea river corridor project and the finer points of effective communication and awareness raising



**Participants involved in key interactive sessions: A 'Galley Walk' to mind map both key interventions currently taking place and those missing from the catchment and ThinkTank discussions to effectively brand the Source to Sea river corridor project as well as build an effective and exciting awareness campaign**

**Afternoon Session:**

During a series of 'ThinkTank' sessions participants were encouraged to unpack and discuss a number of cutting edge communication questions, which would not only help to brand the Source to Sea river corridor project but also help to showcase it to the residents and neighbouring communities. Participants were then asked to identify the key messages that needed to be communicated and how and where to communicate this relevant information so as best to build awareness appropriately. Participants were also asked to identify the opportunities and constraints of the Source to Sea river corridor project.

**Some of the main results are captured below:**

Discussion Input:

Participants were asked to provide input to four pertinent questions/topics. The following came to the fore:

- **What communications can be put in place to connect stakeholders?**
  - o Social Media

- o Use of Mascot (i.e. Porcupine or Otter)
- o Signage and Dashboards
- o Water Use Association

- **What communications can be put in place to encourage people to use the area?**

Need to communicate the idea of “*What is in it for me?*” Central to this idea is to use:

- o Economic incentive based communications (i.e. “cash for trash”, rates rebates)
- o Entertainment (i.e. pop – up events, series of events)
- o Other (i.e. education (scout badges))

- **What communications would marshal surrounding communities to take action and get involved?**

- o Trail Map App
- o Viral videos
- o Signage, notice boards
- o Radio campaigns
- o Digital networking (make use of existing networks)
- o Community newspaper
- o Website
- o PR campaign (communications co-ordinator)
- o Annual and special events (i.e. food fairs, festivals, picnic hampers, markets, music concerts)
- o High tea at the Alpen Hotel
- o PR campaign (communications co-ordinator, standard hashtag)

- **What is the BIG IDEA we should be communicating?**

- o Unique Global Asset
- o Living Corridor
- o Berg to Beach
- o “River of Life”
- o “Eye 2 Sea” (*only issue is this would only be applicable for the Prinskasteel/Keysers River*)

Building Awareness Appropriately:

Participants were asked to ascertain the key messages that need to be conveyed with regards to safety, job creation, activities and rehabilitation:

**Table 4: Overview of the key messages that need to be conveyed with regards to safety, job creation, activities and rehabilitation**

<b>SAFETY</b>	
<b>KEY MESSAGE</b>	<b>MODE OF COMMUNICATION</b>
Map safety points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to raise awareness on the position of cameras and who to call (i.e. neighbourhood watch have radios)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate this with Neighbourhood Watch and community policing Forums and then profile through adequate communications</li> </ul>
Increased numbers of security 'eyes and ears' on the ground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather walkers and associations</li> <li>• Appoint River wardens</li> <li>• Submit question to council (get support)</li> <li>• Regular role players meetings to deal solely with safety and security issues</li> </ul>	Set up a task team to deal with security issues within the catchment (get local authority involved to chair and to help identify which laws can be Useful) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with sub council and ward councillor – write letter from Ward Councillor</li> </ul>
The community is essential to increasing safety and must take ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupy the space</li> <li>• Digital Signage – neighbourhood watch</li> <li>• Visible policing</li> <li>• Gather special walkers</li> <li>• Events (anything more than 50 – 100). Have a regular monthly event (be seen occupying and utilising areas)</li> </ul>	Increase and engage 'Specialist Walking Guides'
<b>JOB CREATION</b>	
Environmental awareness training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link to existing programmes e.g. EPWP and Working for Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support work on the ground</li> <li>• Branding of the Source to Sea route – creates job opportunities</li> </ul>
Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Markets, stalls, community building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help build the brand</li> <li>• Local Business support the concept and are patronised as a result of the brand</li> </ul>
River Wardens and other jobs e.g. Rehabilitation	

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
Walking /Hiking/ Biking/ Health & Recreation e.g. picnic, dog walking	ID and interact with user groups
Education & Awareness e.g. birding, heritage, biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out educational trail / signage, involve I&amp;AP's</li> <li>• Prepare support material (i.e. maps)</li> <li>• Market educational initiatives (school groups, CTEET, Child Welfare Society)</li> </ul>	Interpretive Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety end user product – heritage / school</li> </ul>
Community Events e.g. Kite festival, markets, concerts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ID suitable sites</li> <li>• ID landowners, managers to engage</li> <li>• Permitting Proactive</li> <li>• Advertise Opportunities</li> </ul>	Marketing suitable sites for events
<b>REHABILITATION</b>	
Education of the need for rehabilitation and recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why it is important for me - make context specific</li> <li>• The need for rehabilitation and recovery</li> <li>• Local and indigenous species</li> <li>• Research + Monitoring – Before + After</li> <li>• School groups, farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot Initiative</li> <li>• Community workshops</li> <li>• Develop list of guidelines</li> </ul>
Expensive and Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need sustainable funding stream</li> <li>• Repetitive following up + monitoring</li> <li>• Multi - sectoral involvement</li> <li>• Use cost-effective methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops and capacity building of communities</li> <li>• Detailed discussion with funders</li> </ul>
Stress the importance of utilising Rehabilitation Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make use of opportunities – will create loop of sustainability (bring in funding, job creation, tourism, use aliens economically, community awareness, opportunities for volunteers etc.)</li> </ul>	Issue Directive Section 28 NEMA Duty of Care if damaging/destroying environment



## Opportunities and Problems Identified:

The Sand River Catchment is incredibly fortunate to have such diverse and passionate groups of stakeholders - including local government, community organisations, civil society groups and NGOs working on catchment related projects and initiatives. However, there is a need to communicate across these actors. Some of the major problems and opportunities identified include:

**Table 5: Turning problems into Opportunities**

<b>TOP PROBLEMS</b>	<b>TOP OPPORTUNITIES</b>
Lack of a catchment manager (14)	Making use of the water Act and appointing a water users association (11)
No Funding (7)	Consolidating Partners and Activities (compiling a Business Plan) (7)
Lack of community ownership and community involvement (6)	Political support and making use of ward allocated funds (6)
Lack of general awareness on value and presence of corridor (6)	Existence of beautiful sections which can engage and inspire people (6)
Invasive species (3)	Make use of incentives and awareness programmes i.e. cash for trash, swop shops, recycling schemes, tax rebates (3)
Litter, Dumping , Informal structures, Safety (3)	Use of by-products (1)
Lack of enforcement of existing legislation (2)	Job Creation (find sewers) (1)
Lack of integrated approach (City and Stakeholders) (1)	More environmental inspectors (1)

*(As voted on level of importance)*

## **Recommendations and next steps:**

*(All of these ideas came from the stakeholders and participants of the workshop)*

As a summary of all the above outcomes there is a need for:

- **BRANDING**

It is recommended to use the suggestions by the stakeholder to communicate the key idea in the following way: "The Princess Trail": A living corridor from Berg to Beach

- **CO-ORDINATION**

- Of stakeholders – a device responsive site (i.e. a community co-ordinated website) could work to connect all the small initiatives underway
- Of community – they need to be educated and informed about the project and related activities. (This could potentially be done through a central web portal)

- **EDUCATION**

- Housing information centrally could really help people to understand the initiative. This could take the form of an interactive and community facilitated website.
- It is recommended to use events, like a trail run or organic markets, to boost the profile of the project.
- Citizens also need to be educated about the negative impact of illegal dumping and of the negative effect of alien invasive species.

- Co-ordinating with schools in the catchment could help educate the youth about the areas ecology and could be extended so that schools 'adopting reaches of the corridor' which would help address safety and security as well as management and maintenance issues.
- In connection with branding the project, the use of a mascot (porcupine) and then the same 'logo' for all communications would ensure continuity and sustainability of the project.
- Signage and interactive maps are essential to the utilising of the river corridor route. In urban areas the trail could be marked with paw prints and the mascot telling the biodiversity story.
- A phone app could help to manage information, allow stakeholders to add to events and provide relevant information, aid knowledge sharing, understand what others are doing in the catchment and provide interactive maps of trails, safety nodes, biodiversity gems, on the ground projects and alien invasive hot spots.
- All information must be written in "citizen friendly" language and visually represented as much as possible to overcome some of the language barriers the project encompasses.

Drawing from these recommendations, ICLEI and other project partners, together with the relevant city stakeholders and civil society groups will need to work closely to take both their work, and the outcomes of the ThinkTank forward, through the contribution of knowledge into the implementation an awareness campaign around the catchment, and will be contacted in the coming weeks as the project develops further.

There is already some encouraging political support for activities in these areas, but more buy-in will be needed for any future work. In the same way, the private sector could be approached for funding for identified projects, so that the partnership would then include the private sector, as well as communities. It is important to involve other relevant departments and stakeholders that were not present at the preliminary ThinkTank, to ensure support, integration and align resources for a consolidated communication campaign.

Regardless of the shape and form of the awareness campaign taken forward, it will be necessary to extensively engage the public during the campaigns development, as community ownership and involvement will be vital.

## **Day 2: Site Visit of the Diep River Source to Sea Corridor:**

The Site Visit showcased the vision for one of the potential Source to Sea corridors, the Diep river corridor, which connects Table Mountain National Park with municipal nature reserves. A site visit provides an ideal opportunity to gain an "on the ground" perspective of the challenges and issues associated with developing a Source to Sea corridor, potentially allowing for feasible outcomes conducive to realising the project vision.

While there is an important focus on biodiversity and relationships between national and local protected areas within metros, related challenges and possibilities of sustainable urban design, urban green open space, integrated catchment management, city health and climate adaptation were also discussed through interacting with key experts and stakeholders en route.



The Diep River walk was approximately 6kms, starting at the Constantia Green Belt. The Greenbelt showcased the collaborative involvement of local government, local communities, businesses and interested and affected parties, with regards to promoting and protecting the environmental and recreational heritage of the river corridor. This co-operative riverine management was further illustrated through the engagement with Friends groups, a key stakeholder of the Green Belt, the owners of the Alphen Hotel, which borders this public open space as well as the City parks (City of Cape Town) 'warden' responsible for restoration of the area.

The challenges of urbanisation on river systems was then demonstrated by the inability to continuously follow the direct river course due to housing encroachment, fenced in communities, overgrown vegetation and canalised sections which reduced the mobility along the river banks.

Due to these challenges and other logistical issues, delegates walked along an alternate river corridor, using the Mocke River as an example to discuss the integration of biological control into aquatic weed management.

The route ended at Princess Vlei, exposing delegates to the many issues and relationships surrounding the area. Key members from a civil society group, the Princess Vlei Forum, provided a brief outline on the history of the Vlei and its present management.

#### **General Questions Posed:**

1. What current role/s does this river corridor play in the functioning of metropolitan Cape Town? What optimal role/s could this river corridor play in a future scenario?
2. What are the major impediments or challenges, which you observed, to achieving such optimal functioning of this ecosystem?
3. What major interventions are needed?
4. How could a source to sea river corridor between Table Mountain and the coast build on and strengthen the partnership between national and local governments with respect to protected areas, biodiversity and amenity value?
5. What added value to integrating people and nature could be gained through this river corridor?
6. A key issue is how to 'lock in' (which is sufficient, safe and secure) public access between key open space destinations through process – including through private land areas and developed public areas. Any suggestions?



**Site Visit: Delegates walking down the Diep River Corridor (left) and an inaccessible canalised portion of the route (right)**

**Appendix I:**

Workshop agenda

**Appendix II:**

Overview of the Source to Sea project

**Appendix III:**

Table of interventions occurring within the Sand River Catchment

**Appendix VI:**

Site Visit Overview booklet (demonstrating speakers and engagement points along the route)