

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CITYLAB



Green Infrastructure Citylab 3 (Thursday 20 March 2014): REPORT

On 20 March 2014, the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) held its third Green Infrastructure Citylab. The Citylab builds on the foundations laid by the 'State of Green Infrastructure in the GCR' report (SGIR), launched in July 2013. The Citylab provides a platform for the co-production of policy relevant knowledge between government practitioners and researchers. The aim of this Citylab is to collectively develop, over the course of two years, a Green Infrastructure Plan for the Gauteng City-Region (GCR). This will feed into the Gauteng Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (GIIMP) being developed by the Gauteng Planning Commission (GPC).

The third session focused on the valuing of green infrastructure using financial valuing techniques and on a proposed process towards putting together a Green Infrastructure Plan. In this session a guest expert, Dr Anton Cartwright from the African Centre for Cities (ACC) & Mistra Urban Futures programme, presented on the approach to and outline of a scoping paper that he and Gregg Oelofse from the City of Cape Town have been commissioned by the Citylab to produce.

Attendance

Thembeke Nxumalo	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
Marc Leroy	GDARD
Mahlodi Tau	SANBI
Elsabeth van der Merwe	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
Jane Eagle	COJ
Budu Manaka	SANBI
Stephan Du Toit	Mogale City Local Municipality
Halatedzi Nemavhandu	Johannesburg City Parks & Zoo
Cebo Mhlonso	Johannesburg City Parks & Zoo
Thabang Mokone	Johannesburg City Parks & Zoo
Theo Bernhardt	Johannesburg City Parks & Zoo
Anton Cartwright	African Centre for Cities (ACC)
Kerry Bobbins	GCRO
Christina Culwick	GCRO

Meeting proceedings

The third Citylab meeting began with a brief discussion on the definitions of the terms 'Green Infrastructure' and 'Ecological Infrastructure' and how these are linked. The issue of the relationship between the terms had been raised by SANBI in a previous session of the Citylab. This was followed by a report back on the status of commissioned work to be included in the GCRO Occasional Paper being produced as the first output of the project. The following experts have been commissioned: Gregg Oelofse (City of Cape Town) & Anton Cartwright (ACC); and Myles Mander (Futureworks). A third expert is currently in the process of being contracted.

Anton Cartwright presented the outline and approach of the scoping paper that he and Gregg Oelofse are compiling. The presentation included the history of ecological valuation, and the ecosystem valuation work undertaken by Jane Turpie and Martin de Wit for the Environmental Resource Management Department (City of Cape Town), as well as an overview of the opportunities for and challenges faced in the ecosystem valuing approach taken by the City of Cape Town. Cartwright's presentation was used to shape a discussion on environmental fiscal reform in municipalities and considerations for Gauteng. This was followed by a discussion on possible case studies to be taken forward in the Citylab and Green Assets and Infrastructure 2014/15 work plan, and proposed budgets.

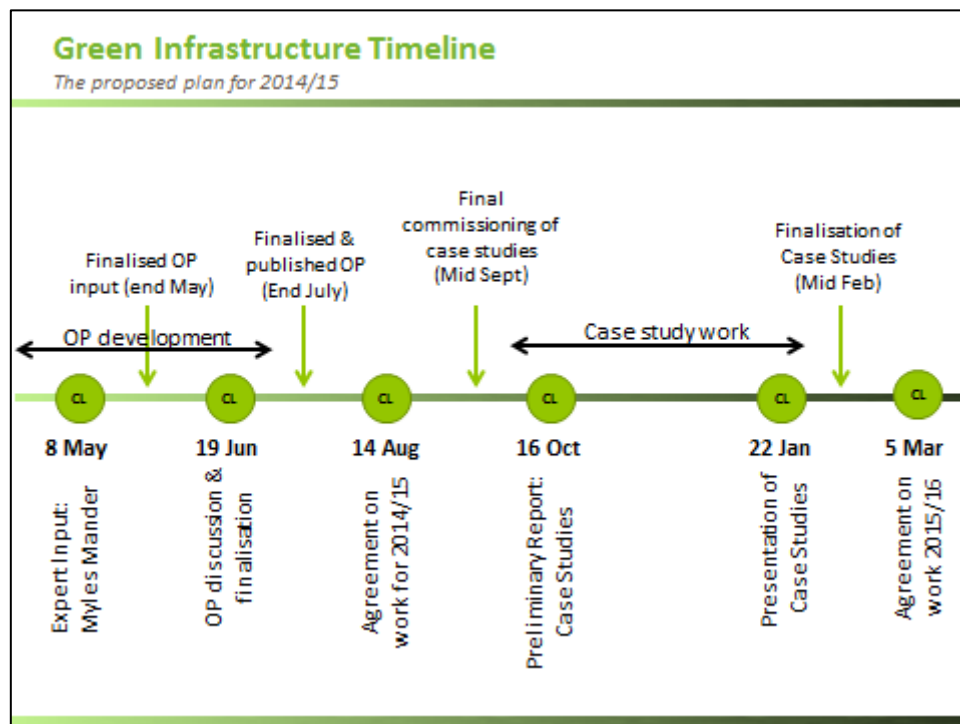


Figure 1: Proposed 2014/15 work plan for the GI Citylab (Proposed GI Citylab meetings indicated by the round green symbols)

Key points that emerged from the session include:

- GI projects need to be framed as helping municipalities/people solve problems, and not adding to their problems. There are opportunities to achieve a number of objectives including job creation, service delivery and cost-effective investment.
- Building an evidence base is critical to any GI project. This also includes returns on GI investment and projects. Cartwright identified an example where roads that were protected by natural and maintained ecosystems (e.g. dunes) fared better during the 2007 Durban storm surge than those that were not protected. Using examples such as this is a potential way to motivate for budget for investment in and maintenance of GI.
- The creation of sustainable jobs was also highlighted, as well as the benefit of calculating the cost and return of each GI job created (this will vary across different projects).

Action items

Note: Bold text indicates who is responsible for each item.

1. Participant list – ensure the right people are included (**ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH GCRO**)
2. Participants agreed to compile a document that includes the following:
 - relevant projects and plans underway or planned
 - case study proposals to be undertaken through the Green Infrastructure Citylab (and whether any funds would be available to support this work)
 - anything else participants feel should be included in the Citylab process.

The deadline for this input is **16 April 2014 (ALL PARTICIPANTS)**

3. The proposed plan and Citylab dates will be circulated to participants (**GCRO**), and participants need to advise if any of these dates need to be adjusted (**ALL PARTICIPANTS**).

Upcoming Citylabs

	Proposed Dates	Topic
1.	8 May 2014	Framework for developing GI Plan: Expert input (Myles Mander)
2.	19 Jun 2014	Framework / OP discussion & finalisation
3.	14 Aug 2014	Agreement on work for 2014/15
4.	16 Oct 2014	Preliminary presentations on Case Study work
5.	22 Jan 2015	Presentation of Case Studies
6.	5 Mar 2015	Agreement on work in 2015/16 (budget discussion)