



CONNECTIVE CITIES DIALOGUE EVENT ON  
“INCLUSIVE CITIES: TOWARDS AN URBAN AND  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL”, FROM 7TH TO  
9TH MAY 2018 IN BONN, GERMANY.

**“COMMUNITIES GAINING ACCESS TO ITS’ NATURAL RESOURCES”:  
SILVERGLEN NATURE RESERVE  
REVITILIZATION PROJECT- DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA**



# 1. Starting Point

- Since 2013- Notoriously known for serious violent crimes at the reserve, murders; robberies; house-breakings; hijacking; hiding ground for stolen/hijacked cars; skeletons and bodies found- no go area
- Park neglected- poor facilities- not used by the community
- Silverglen conservancy, local CPF, Security companies - joined forces with to address crime issues.
- August 2017 – ABM involved through a recommendation from our Metro Police
- Overall vision of the project was to make the Reserve a safe and accessible space for all members of society.



## 2. Institutional setting

### 1. The Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000

- core principles, mechanisms and processes - enable municipalities to move towards the social and economic upliftment of local communities, and universal access to essential services that are affordable to all.

- It further provides for community participation and promotes the creation of an enabling environment for planning that has the express purpose of empowering the poor.
- Policy of including people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized by virtue of gender, race, class, sexuality, dis-ability, etc.

### 2. As a signatory to the **United Nations Convention on Environment and Development(UNCED)- 1993-**

Responsibility of the Municipality to make this natural resource available as a public resource as well as to manage the biodiversity in a sustainable way.





### 3. Approach

- Engagement with community actors who were involved in the park viz, Community Policing Forum(CPF), Conservancy, Civic Federation, NGO's
- An integrated approach was embarked upon with all stakeholders present at each site meeting
- Several site meetings and brainstorming sessions were held
- Issues were identified and action plans were drafted.
- The action plan is currently being systematically implemented.
- A Workshop held with all stakeholder including community representatives to devise a long term action plan for the reserve.
- Next phase – community meeting to discuss and obtain input into the concept plan for the Reserve.



## 4. Outputs

- Community access to an improved facility Reserve is open again.
- Conservation of a protected area – protection of biodiversity.
- Crime curbed- regular patrols
- Local Economic development- Small business opportunities, Eco- tourism, creation a conference centre.





## 4. Outputs cont.

- Currently used extensively by Senior Citizen and Women's groups who are looking for cost effective recreational facilities
- Security staff, guides and water sport staff are provided to visiting groups to ensure their safety and special needs are taken care off.
- Work to have access routes and ablution facilities for people with disabilities is underway.
- The reserve is also home to traditional herb healing nursery. Senior citizens are also(by arrangement) given talks on natural healing and the use of these plants for common ailments they experience such as arthritis and hypertension.



## 5. Lessons Learnt

1. An integrated and inclusive approach is key.
2. Attend to “low hanging fruit” first.
3. Involve the community in short and long term planning.
4. A community based approach to make the Reserve self sustaining.

