



REPORT TO: CITY MANAGER

**TO BE REFERRED BY THE OFFICIAL TO MAYCO VIA THE SPATIAL PLANNING AND
ENVIRONMENT SECTION 79 COMMITTEE [AFTER CONSIDERATION BY CITY
MANAGER]**

1. ITEM NUMBER

2. SUBJECT

FEEDBACK ON THE INTERNATIONAL/OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF THE
RSA TRIP UNDERTAKEN FROM 17 TO 21 FEBRUARY 2025 TO ATTEND
THE GREEN & RESILIENT URBANSHIFT AFRICA FORUM AND CITY
ACADEMY 2025 IN KENYA

ONDERWERP

TERUGVOERING OOR DIE REIS NA DIE BUITELAND / BUIE DIE
GRENSE VAN DIE RSA, ONDERNEEM VAN 17 TOT 21 FEBRUARIE 2025
OM DIE "GREEN AND RESILIENT URBANSHIFT AFRICA FORUM 2025" EN
"CITY ACADEMY 2025" IN KENIA BY TE WOON

ISIHLOKO

INGXELO ENGOHAMBO KUMAZWE APHESHEYA / ANGAPHANDLE
KWEMIDA YASEMZANTSI AFRIKA, OLUQHUTYWE UKUSUSELA KOWE17
UKUYA KOWAMA21 KWEYOMDUMBA 2025 UKUZIMASA IFORAM
ENGOKUTSHINTSHA KOKUNGENABUNGOZI KOKUSINGQONGILEYO
NOKULUQILIMA KWIDOLOPHU EAFRIKA NAKWIZIKO LEZOQEQESHO
LESIXEKO YANGO2025, ESE KENYA

LSU Reference Number: R307

3. EVENT SUMMARY

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	THE GREEN & RESILIENT URBANSHIFT AFRICA FORUM AND CITY ACADEMY 2025	
OTHER	Peer-to-peer exchange between municipalities, industry and organisations in green and urban resilience in city planning.	
DATE	17-21 February 2025	
VENUE	Hayatt Regency Hotel, 38 Muthithi Road, Westlands Nairobi	
TOTAL COST TO THE CITY	R19 013,84	
CITY	Nairobi	
COUNTRY	KENYA	
ATTENDEE DETAILS		
NAME AND SURNAME		DESIGNATION
Nigel Titus		Manager: District Planning And Mechanisms
PROVIDE SUMMARY OF HOST ORGANISATION / CITY		
The City of Cape Town forms part of the C40 global network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis. These mayors are committed to using an inclusive, science-based and collaborative approach to cut their fair share of emissions in half by 2030, help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C, and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. C40 supports mayors to do this by: Raising climate ambition through 1.5°C climate action plan support, high-impact accelerators and fostering innovation; building equitable and thriving communities via global and regional programmes; building a global movement through robust international advocacy and diplomacy; scaling up climate action and sharing best practices across high-impact sectors; and facilitating access to finance for investment in green jobs and projects that improve resilience in cities. Other partnership organisations include: The Global Environmental Facility (GEF); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); World Resources Institute; International Council for Local Environmental Initiative (ICLEI); World Bank; and the Asian Development Bank. The session was conducted by UrbanShift.		

4. OBJECTIVE

The once off one week-long event in Nairobi offered hands-on, practical peer-to-peer exchange between African municipalities, industry and researchers to discuss ways of dealing with climate change challenges and objectives, especially in African countries.

The three-day Forum (Monday to Wednesday), an international workshop comprising 250 participants from 45 cities, focused on challenges relating to resilience, urban planning, and infrastructure development to drive climate action. It included a parallel session on the Wednesday that was an investors' roundtable and a City-Business Climate Alliance workshop – that was a closed session for political leadership.

The subsequent two-day City Academy addressed challenge of urban growth and climate change and provided insights on how to design the cities in the future, given the ever growing population and urbanisation. It offered training opportunities for city-level decision-makers and practitioners through three parallel courses: Accommodating Urban Growth, (delivered by C40); and Circular Economy (delivered by ICLEI); and Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods (delivered by UNEP).

The programme for the five days is attached as Annexure 1.

Important takeaways from the five days, relevant for the City of Cape Town include:

The session helped to create an understanding of urban planning policies and regulations in cities to create productive, inclusive and sustainable cities in the face of urban sprawl and climate change. It also helped to equip participants with the knowledge and insights of how to plan their urban form in a more sustainable and resilient manner, understanding local context through a series of expert contributions, discussions and interactive exercises.

The site visit to Mukuru Special Planning Area, an informal settlement of ±101 00 units showed similar challenges to Cape Town. Here water was provided but residents purchased these using a pre-paid card system. Similar to Cape Town, extortion and mafia are at play. The mafia would sell water and electricity at much higher prices. The special planning area is a settlement area where the Municipality and, in this instance, a very well organised, community leaders would pact to formulate a development plan for the settlement, within a regulated two-year period – resulting in very creative responses and a high level of ownership of actions and outcomes.

The session highlighted the acceleration of climate change; population growth; the rising average heat (1,5°C hotter); 2023 and 2024 being the hottest years on record, more droughts, etc. and its related impacts. It focussed on how to reduce and mitigate negative impact related to these by promoting the creation of local level adaptation strategies promoting nature based solutions like: green roofs and green walls; rain gardens, tree planting, permeable

pavements; open spaces and parks; natural land and forests; and protecting natural water systems.

A hands-on session focussing on an activities to develop an approach to applying this in urban planning was working sessions. This is a useful way to look at measures to lessen the impact of the urban heat island effect. Urban planners are considered to be the best climate activists given their role and location in the development spectrum.

A useful trends to follow for Cape Town are the tree planting project of the mayor of Freetown (Sierra Leone), Yvonne Aki-Sawyer. This mayor aims to combat the impact of climate change, especially the urban heat effect by pay-to-grow” scheme to plant, grow and digitally track trees though which residents are paid to plant and monitor trees and mangroves, which are tracked via an online platform. The initiative is funded with tokens sold on private and carbon markets. Also the City of Medellin with its program of green coverage that entails the planting trees along its 18 major roadways and 12 waterways. This is an interesting easy project that the City of Cape Town can initiate via a community campaign. The attendees were also exposed to interesting work on digital solutions to measure urban heat.

An additional interesting takeaway from the City Academy is the notion to “Move Beyond TOD” to a City of Proximity that promotes a polycentric spatial strategy; counteract single use zoning; designates areas within neighbourhoods for local services (amenities) and offers incentives to support local businesses. This sounds like what the city of Cape Town is doing already through its MSDF.

5. OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS REQUIRED

Two main new aspects, discussed at the sessions, requires support from the participating cities.

The first is to support a finance advocacy initiative for the Africa region that was launched at the opening ceremony on 17 February. The mayor ahead of the session confirmed Cape Town’s endorsement of it. A letter will be addressed to the Ministers of Finance to raise awareness of the financial constraints we face and to advocate for specific reforms that would empower us to attract the finance needed to build more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive cities.

The second is the development of an Urban planning accelerator. The aims of the accelerator is to agree on targets for action in this area for climate adaption and mitigation. The breakaway session started to discuss the accelerator and once completed the City will be requested to support. This accelerator may be built on the pillars of reduce green house gasses; reducing population risk; and delivering an inclusive city. These pillars can be a useful framework for formulating our spatial policies and projects. Using the framework for responding to climate change challenges and the above framework, we will in the review of our District Plan and MSDF

see how we can use these to ensure that these policy documents adequately respond to these challenges where it can.

Further work will include using the C40 team to help strengthen our spatial planning team's response to climate change at a neighbourhood level and to see what funding opportunities the City can access in this regard. Note I did not attend the funding session (closed session mentioned above), but learnt that there are several opportunities for projects in this regard.

The City may investigate a tree planting strategy throughout the city, similar to Freetown, e.g. Greening the City, starting with strategic areas, to make awareness of climate change; to mobilise the involvement of the citizens; and create more pleasant looking environment; and reducing the urban heat island effects.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Constitutional and Policy Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.2 Environmental implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.3 Financial Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.4 Legal Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.5 Staff Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.6 Risk Implications No ☒ Yes ☐

7.7 POPIA Compliance

☒ It is confirmed that this report has been checked and considered for POPIA Compliance.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- a) the feedback report on The Green & Resilient Urbanshift Africa Forum and City Academy 2025 trip undertaken by Mr Nigel Titus from 17-21 February 2025 **be considered and noted.**

AANBEVELINGS

Daar word aanbeveel dat:

- a) die terugvoeringsverslag oor die reis na die "Green and Resilient Urbanshift Africa Forum 2025" en "City Academy 2025" onderneem deur Mr Nigel Titus van 17-21 Februarie 2025 **oorweeg en daarvan kennis geneem word.**

IZINDULULO

Kundululwe ukuba:

- a) **Makuthathelwe ingqalelo kwaye kuqwalaselwe** ingxelo engasemva kohambo, emalunga neForam engokuTshintsha kokungenaBungozi kokuSingqongileyo nokuLuqilima kwiDolophu eAfrika nakwiZiko lezoQeqesho leSixeko yango2025, oluqhutywe nguNigel Titus ukususela ngowe17 ukuya kowama21 kweyoMdumba 2025.

9. ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Forum and City Academy Programmes

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT:

DATE	3 April 2025		
NAME	Nigel Titus	CONTACT NUMBER	082 896 0208
E-MAIL ADDRESS	nigel.titus@capetown.gov.za		
DIRECTORATE	Spatial Planning and Environment	FILE REF NO	
SIGNATURE :			

DIRECTOR

~~Ms Erika Naudé~~

COMMENT:

SIGNATURE:

NAME

DATE



Approved on 15 May 2025 by
Mr Nigel Titus (082 896 0208)
Acting Director: Urban Planning
and Design

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR : Robert McGaffin

~~Ms Erika Naudé~~

The ED's signature represents support for report
content and confirms POPIA compliance.

COMMENT:

SIGNATURE:

NAME

DATE

MANAGER: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DR. DENVER VAN SCHALKWYK

SIGNATURE:

DATE

COMMENT:

☐ REPORT COMPLIANT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL'S DELEGATIONS, POLICIES, BY-LAWS AND ALL LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

☐ NON-COMPLIANT

COMMENT:

NAME

TEL

DATE

Certified as legally compliant based on the contents of the report.

CITY MANAGER



NOTED



REFER TO THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE VIA THE RELEVANT SECTION 79 COMMITTEE

DATE

COMMENT: