

Making Sustainable Development A Reality

www.thegreenconnection.org.za



Annual Report 2019



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Board Members: L. McDaid, B.Dramat, R. Stanford, C. Bragg, P. Hlakula, G. Williams, Y. Reddy (chair)

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The Mission of The Green Connection

We believe that empowering people to participate in their environment is the only way that truly sustainable development can take place. Our environmental resources are limited and not ours to squander, but to protect for future generations. We believe that economic growth and development, improvement of socio-economic status, and conservation of natural resources, can only take place within a commonly understood framework of sustainable development. Our organisation aims to provide practical support to both the government and non-government sector as an integral part of sustainable development.



Profile of the Organisation

The Green Connection was established in 2000 and registered as a non-profit organisation in 2010. The organisation is comprised of 66.67% women and 83.3% previously disadvantaged individuals (PDI), and prides itself on its relevance to the new South Africa. The organisation's public benefit organisation (PBO) status was approved in 2011.

2019 Operations

Over the last couple of years, Green Connection associates have been diverted into various activities, and the Green Connection board resolved to let the organisation idle until momentum picked up again.

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Energy Governance

The Green Connection continues to be part of the civil society network, the Energy Governance Initiative (EG-SA). EG-SA meets regularly to discuss current energy challenges facing the country, and how organisations can work together to address them.

The Green Connection contributed to an EG-SA/Project 90x2030 briefing on the [Just Energy Transition](#) for South Africa.

Responsible Fishing

The Green Connection continues to work with small-scale fishers around the coast. The International Ocean Institute of Southern Africa (IOISA) now runs an annual training course for its trainers, who live and work with small-scale fishing communities. The Green Connection offers a communication and conflict resolution module as part of the training course.

Since 2008, the Green Connection has been involved with WWF-SA, in working together to support the training of fishers, as well as advising them on their restaurant programme. The Green Connection has also worked with WWF-SA to assist the Responsible Fisheries Alliance (RFA), a group of commercial fishing operations that strive to improve the ecological friendliness of their operations. The next phase of this work should roll out in 2020.

The Two Rivers Urban Park

The Green Connection continues to offer a supportive role wherever it can. In 2019, the organisation was asked to facilitate the election process for the new Two Rivers Urban Park Association Steering Committee.

UCT Planners and Architects Planning

Over a number of years, The Green Connection was asked to provide a lecture on public participation in environmental decision-making to the Planning and Architect students. In 2019, the lecture focused on lessons learned in the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA) and the Two Rivers Urban Park, where authorities had failed to implement a proper process.

Going Forward into 2020

The Green Connection's challenge is to raise funds to carry out the work it has identified as a priority. We are seeing that although youth are passionate about environmental justice, there is little advice and capacity-building available to facilitate their voices being raised.

The Green Connection has always maintained a strong grassroots connection, and going forward it would be important to revitalise that aspect, and to start to run eco-justice and youth development projects. Ways to work both voluntarily and funded should be strengthened, particularly with regard to implementing a Legacy Project.