

***Making Sustainable Development A Reality***

[www.thegreenconnection.org.za](http://www.thegreenconnection.org.za)



## **Operational Report 2014-2015**

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**080-620-NPO**

**PBO no: 930036889**

Board Members:

Yachika Reddy, Penny Hlakula, Glyn Williams, Leila Mahomed-Weideman, Liz McDaid, Basier Dramat

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### **OUR MISSION**

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**

The Green Connection was established in 2000 and registered as a Non-profit organisation in 2010. The organisation comprises of 66.67% women and 83.3% PDI and prides itself on its relevance to the new South Africa. The organisation's Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) status was approved in 2011.

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## **Renewable Energy – monitoring progress with the Government’s RE programme.**

The Green Connection as part of EGI, produced a review report on progress in the government’s renewable energy independent power producer programme process (REI4P) conducting the field work earlier in the year and producing a report in August 2014. This led to further follow up field work, liaison with various stakeholders, and the production of a November updated addendum report

This report received significant interest from Government which had identified similar challenges, as well as the report being recognised as important at a local government level. During early 2015, this led to a collaboration with ICLEI and WWF to hold a learning exchange in the Eastern Cape with a number of local government representatives, as well as representatives from provincial and district level government

A further discussion with government at the national level led to the Green Connection being invited to be part of a review of the renewable energy programme process, particularly around how such a programme benefits local communities.

Green Connection is a country partner organisation of the World Resource Institute (WRI)’s Electricity Governance Initiative and Liz McDaid attended the annual EGI meeting in India in 2015



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### **IES student abroad study programme**

The Green Connection works with the IES study abroad programme, based at UCT. We deliver a semester course on eco-justice for American students visiting South Africa. The course includes topics ranging from wildlife human conflicts, to small scale fisheries, energy and climate change as well as developmental pressures on natural resources. For 2014, the course ran for both semesters, and the partnership continues into 2015.

The IES course bring American volunteers to South Africa and the Green Connection has played an important role in linking voluntary services with meaningful community development projects such as various green initiatives with the preschool in Maitland Garden Village.



### **Two Rivers Urban Park (TRUP)**

The Green Connection is part of the TRUP advisory committee.

TRUP needs a manager and the proposal is for Green Connection to explore with TRUP, the possibility of taking over the function of managing the TRUP for the city of Cape Town. TRUP is an established park under the management of the city of Cape Town. There is a possibility for such a partnership but we would need to raise the funding to do so.

Lynette Munro has taken on a secretariat role, which could be extended if we could find the funding.

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### **Sustainable Development/ Eco-justice course**

Although the IES ecojustice course has rave reviews from students who attend, the course has been limited to American students studying abroad. There is a need and desirability to run the course for South Africans but sponsorship is needed. For 2016, a different partnership strategy is needed.

### **Various events.**

Liziwe M has represented the Green Connection at various energy and climate change events, including linking with civil society organisations such as AIDC and the 1mill climate jobs campaign.

The Green Connection was invited to attend a Climate Action Partnership (CAP) meeting in Tanzania in February 2015. There are some potential collaborative partnerships that could arise from this event but further work is needed to follow up.

The Green Connection is often contact by students doing research as well as international partners looking for an organisation in the developing south, with which to partner. The Green Connection will continue to participate in such initiatives.

Liz McDaid was also invited and attended the IGC conference at the London School of Economics in London, UK in November 2015.

### **Plans for 2015/16**

Possible collaborative projects include energy related projects in Tanzania, capacity building in climate change for various areas, and energy governance and monitoring of government progress in energy policies.

Going forward into 2016, the Green Connection will be focused on a strategic sustainability model that enables the Green Connection to profile its successes and attract the right partners to take forward making sustainable development a reality.



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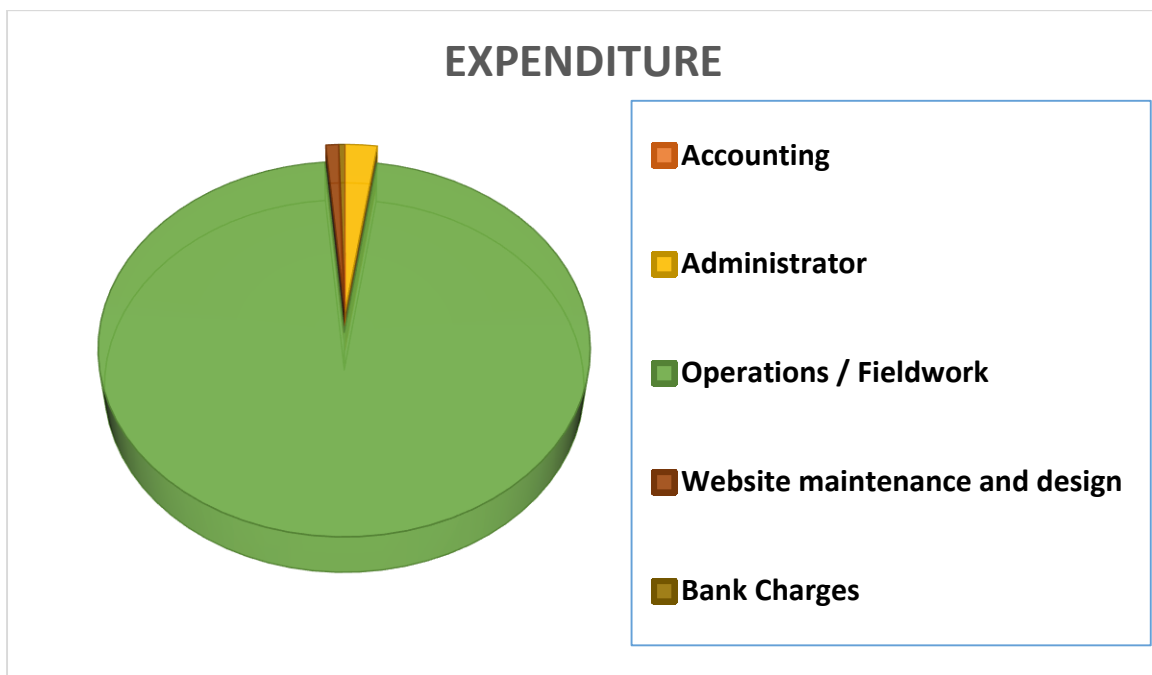
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### **Financials**

The Green Connection Board meeting is held annually. The Audited Financial Statements is available on request. Annual Financial Statements were prepared by Da Silva Accounting firm. Da Silva has continued with pro bono work for GC and their services has been invaluable to the organisation. The Board express their sincere thanks.



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