

***Making Sustainable Development A Reality***

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



## **Operations Report 2015-2016**

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Board Members: Liz McDaid, Basier Dramat, Christy Bragg, Penny Hlakula, Glyn Williams, Yachika Reddy

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## 2016 Operations

The Green Connection had a mixed year for 2015. There were a number of initiatives that started off well and then did not materialise.

And then there were opportunities for international travel which opened up during the year.

### Climate Action Partnership – Tanzania

There was an opportunity to present on the South African situation including how the Green Connection has been involved, through its climate adaptation projects over the years. It was heartening to see how our work in rural communities in adapting to climate change is exactly the kind of initiative that is needed in Tanzania and other Southern African countries.

The coordinator of the Climate programme in Tanzania was keen to collaborate into the future but despite a couple of attempts to suggest ideas, nothing concrete has emerged.

### Renewable Energy Monitoring

Green Connection continues to be part of the civil society energy governance initiative, EG-SA, and we continue to be a South African partner of the World Resource Institute's Electricity Governance Initiative (EGI). Last year, we were invited to attend the international conference in India. This was a rewarding experience, both in terms of hearing how renewable energy is being regulated in India, but also in terms of meeting all the WRI partners organisations.

There are one or two initiatives that are possible going forward into 2016 but these are dependent on funding.

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In the second part of 2016, Green Connection will be working with the Alternative Information Development Centre (AIDC) to review the REI4P, focusing on not only the socio-economic benefits but also on some of the localisation challenges.

WRI and Liz McDaid from the Green Connection will also work on a paper to describe how energy governance has shifted under the nuclear promotion of the 5<sup>th</sup> parliamentary session.

In 2015, the Green Connection followed up on the renewable energy monitoring analysis and conducted some participatory work in partnership with ICLEI. This led to an agreement to work together on a manual to assist local government with unpacking climate change and renewable energy. Unfortunately, ICLEI were not able to commit the funds in the end and the project did not go ahead.

### **Fisheries training**

Since 2008, the Green Connection has been involved with WWF in working together to support the training of fishers, as well as advising them on their restaurant programme.

In 2015, the Green connection was contracted to update the training manuals and to conduct training workshops on the training for new and existing trainers. During the project, it was discovered the few existing trainers understood the methodology and so an additional workshop was held to train the existing trainers. This was successful.

The materials were updated but since the beginning of 2016, WWF has not responded to various emails, and the contract has not been finalised. This should be addressed in the near future.

### **Empretec energy auditing**

In 2015, the Green Connection was approached by Empretec Mauritius to partner with them to look at greening small businesses. This would include training manuals on energy auditing, as well as conducting participatory energy audits for small businesses and business mentoring.

We met with the Mauritian representative who had EU funding to carry out the project. Unfortunately, over the next few weeks, the Mauritian rep became uncontactable and at this point, it appears that the project was a scam. Whether legal action is necessitated, it is not clear, as in the process of signing a contract, they pulled out.

Empretec are also supposed to work with another organisation in South Africa, an SMME support type association, but so far, our interactions have not proved satisfactory. Some ongoing engagement will be continued but we will be wary about what we commit to.

### **Engineers without borders**

During 2015, we were approached by a US based group of engineers who come out to Africa and build projects. They were keen to work with us, and were supposed to have made their decision about where to work by December 2015, but given that we have heard nothing, we assume they decided to go elsewhere.

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### Cornerstone University

This is something new for 2016. We will be running two courses for the Cornerstone University winter school. This has been set up as a partnership and we will see it as an experiment to see if this proves worthwhile. The courses are one on ecojustice, and one on energy auditing. The courses will only run if there are 20 students that participate.

### IES.

Although our usual eco justice course ran for American students in 2015, we were not able to attract many students and the course didn't run for the latter half of 2015. In addition, IES themselves changed management and we felt that the expectations of IES for very little reward were not worth it for the Green Connection.

### The Two Rivers Urban Park

The Green Connection continues to offer a supportive role wherever it can. Liz has to resign as chair last year due to work commitments but the organisation has gone from strength to strength and is playing a vital role in opposing inappropriate development in the area. Lynette Munro had continued to support TRUP as secretariat and has assisted the Maintland Garden Village civic group, the Green light project.

### IGC growth conference

In 2015, the London School of Economics held a conference on energy and growth, and funded the attendance of Liz McDaid from the Green Connection. Several important contacts were made there, and it is hoped that further collaborative efforts can emerge.

### Going forward into 2016/2017.

The Green connection's challenge is to raise funds to carry out the work it has identified.

There is also a need to work with additional energy experts.

In addition, 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 considered.

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