

Making Sustainable Development A Reality

www.thegreenconnection.org.za



Operations Report 2017

P O Box 24308

Lansdowne 7700

Tel: 021 696 8266

Fax: 086 645 1147

info@thegreenconnection.org.za

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

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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2017 Operations

2017 saw a year of activity both in the fishing sector and in the energy sector. Green Connection can be proud that it continues to contribute to strengthening civil society participation in South African society.

Renewable Energy Monitoring

In the second part of 2016, Green Connection worked 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.

The report was launched this year, at a civil society event at the AIDC offices.

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). The Green Connection contributed to a briefing document comparing the cost of renewable energy amongst different countries.

Fisheries training

In 2017, the Green Connection started working with the International Oceans Institute, South Africa (IOISA) who were implementing a programme of capacity building ahead of the Government roll out of rights to small scale fishers.

The Green Connection then worked with IOISA to carry out a number of workshops around coast, with train the trainers who could then be equipt to build capacity at their own community level. Workshops were held in KZN, Eastern Cape and in the Western Cape.

Coal energy and health

In 2016, the Green Connection worked with groundWork, an environmental justice organisation based in KZN whose work focuses on environmental justice issues such as the harmful impacts of coal fired power stations on the surrounding communities. Green Connection analysed the available data and drafted a report on the health impacts of coal fired fleet in Mpumalanga. The report was updated in 2017, and a movie "[The Bliss of Ignorance](#)" was produced, which went on to win international acclaim.

UCT lecture for Planning and Architect students

Since 2013, the Green Connection has been asked to provide a lecture on public participation in environmental decision-making to the planning and architect students. In 2017, the lecture focused on lessons learnt in the nuclear case and public participation in the Shale Gas consultation.

Going forward into 2018.

The Green Connection has been involved with various initiatives which contributed to empowering grass roots communities, both in our work on the energy field and in sustainable fisheries. The Green Connection looks forward to continuing to build a resilient and strengthened civil society.

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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.