

uMngeni Ecological Infrastructure Partnership (UEIP) – UPDATE

Support to the Continuation of the Reconciliation Strategy of
the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Metropolitan Area: Phase 2

Strategy Steering Committee - Meeting 9

Pearl Gola
UEIP Co-ordinator

MEMBERSHIP

- Partnership government, business, academia, and civil society
- 23 organisations - signatory to the MoU
- The primary focus :
 - the role of **ecological infrastructure** in improving water security in the uMngeni catchment.

UEIP Partners



environmental affairs
Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



water & sanitation
Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



agriculture
& environmental affairs
Department:
Agriculture
& Environmental Affairs
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



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GOVERNANCE

- Coordination Committee:
 - eThekweni Municipality and SANBI - Co-chair
 - Co-ordinator: strategic, management and administrative support
- Drafting a strategy for UEIP
- Research committee:
 - Co-chaired by the Water Research Commission and SANBI

OBJECTIVES

- Increase investments in ecological infrastructure
- Improve compliance and enforcement around ecological infrastructure
- Improve institutional capacity
- Strengthen the policy environment
- Strengthen the science into policy links through research

PILOT PROJECTS

- **Baynespruit Rehabilitation Project** -uMsunduzi Municipality
 - systematic and participative approach
 - commemoration of International Day for Biodiversity May 2015, and the launch of the new National Environmental Sector Local Government Support Strategy

- **Save Midmar Project** - uMgungundlovu Municipality

- KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs coordinating activities.
- agricultural activity above the dam and sewer discharges directly into the dam.
- built infrastructure construction and repair work, ecological infrastructure (wetland) rehabilitation, education and outreach

- **Palmiet Rehabilitation Project** – eThekweni Municipality
 - solid waste disposal from the informal settlement, sewer leaks and industrial effluent discharge
 - driven by researchers from UKZN
 - establishing relationships and understanding socio-economic and political dynamics in the informal settlement

RESEARCH

1. Demonstration of how healthy ecological infrastructure can be utilized to secure water for the benefit of society and the green economy through a programmatic research approach based on selected landscapes
 - 5 year project
 - Water Research Commission – UKZN
 - A number of students (Masters and PhDs)

2. Investing in ecological infrastructure to enhance water security in the uMngeni River catchment

- 18 month project- ***completed November 2015***
- Green Fund (DBSA)- UKZN and SANBI
- Outputs: Project report, investment plan, policy brief

ACTIONS

- Include investment in ecological infrastructure in decision-making and policy development
 - Research outputs (Investment plan and policy brief)
- Stakeholder involvement
- Community based actions
- Application to other catchments

THANK YOU

SANBI

Biodiversity for Life

South African National Biodiversity Institute

