

WATER : Reclaim Camissa Project

Reclaim Camissa is an opportunity to provide a vehicular-free public landscape by re-instating the city's socio-ecological link between the mountain and the ocean. This link reinforces the historical *raison d'être* for human settlement at the Cape as the ancient Khoi name for Cape Town was Camissa – the place of sweet waters. This water structured the City of Cape Town in the past and provides the meaning for the Programme's proposed interventions whilst it reflects our rich and diverse public heritage, since water is life.

It is envisaged that by establishing integrated and flexible urban development around the natural resource of water in Cape Town's CBD, enabling us to rise and meet the future environmental resource challenges by creating a public landscape that is physically accessible, expressive of civic ideal and a place where the public can gather. Camissa encompasses a vital sustainable dual water management strategy for the city and effective mechanism for building the city's civic life.

The concept is based on civic hydrology and aims to transform the stormwater infrastructure, to create a powerful civic infrastructure that engages the public in ways that conventional infrastructure is unable to do, by reinstating the watercourses and celebrating the elements and remnants of heritage water utility infrastructure embedded within the urban fabric.

The approach brings real transformation highlights challenging the narrow technological approach to addressing the sustainability issues of central Cape Town - communities will be enabled to work with nature's design principles being able to value their own richness and of their environment; communities will experience projects that demonstrate that wealth of opportunities working with true diversity can generate livelihood for all. With the backing of scientific knowledge, this paves the way for real development to take place within the community, eco-system and the broader living environment.

The aim is that by 2020, a sustainable approach to water use, planning, design and management would be in place – based on the intrinsic value of water as a significant public resource that is not separate from the value of land and landscape.

- provide an ecosystem link from the mountain to the sea
- meet performance criteria for sustainability and bio-diversity
- provide an essentially vehicular free pedestrian structure for the city;
- link natural, cultural and public urban environments while securing their value as recreational and educational resources
- re-instate the sense of place of water that has been lost by vertical development, which has forced water underground into stormwater pipes
- provide energy required to renew and irrigate the water; and other possibilities for the local scale hydro-electric power supply;
- enhance the physical environment, by sustainable and economical watering of green spaces and urban planting
- maximise opportunities for water navigation, in order to reduce the carbon footprint
- assist in defining neighbourhood boundaries; and in providing opportunities for collaboration between civic groups.

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