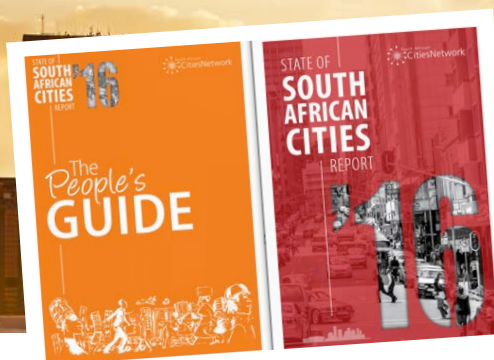


State of Cities Report 2016 release



The South African Cities Network reports on the state of South African (largest) cities every five years through the publication of the State of the Cities Report. The latest report released recently highlights the progress made by the country's eight metropolitan municipalities since 2012.

The report monitors city development and service delivery performance against local benchmarks and strategies, national urban development priorities and international development targets. The report sets out to influence national policy and strategy through messages about what is required to achieve the desired urban development outcomes. It is also used to advise and inform the plans and strategies of cities by generating specialised and technical evidence and insights.

Drawing from the report, the significant role that cities play in South Africa's development is undeniable. Cities are crucial in driving growth, generating about two-thirds of the country's economic activity and more than half of national employment. The report contains a number of messages, including the following:

- Cities have significantly improved their service delivery and generally have good strategies in place to facilitate economic growth and social development.
- Cities are associated with environments providing opportunity for its residents, as a result continuously attracting migrants looking for work and a better quality of life. These new residents are often low or unskilled which reduces their chances of success and in turn results in the urbanisation of poverty, unemployment, overcrowding and social tension.

- South African cities are still inefficient as a result of apartheid spatial legacies which spatially displace many residents, often housing the poorer residents on city peripheries. This also burdens many residents with long and costly commutes and it entrenches race and class divides. This still requires more strategies to address spatial deficiency and exclusion.
- Cities still follow resource intensive growth paths, and suffer from inefficiencies in sectors such as energy, waste, and transport. They urgently require growth paths and priorities to make the cities more sustainable and resilient.

A number of new features have been added to this year's report; this includes *city profiles* which provide a summary of key city variables as well as the latest *State of Cities Open Data Almanac* (SoCR). The CSIR has, through its StepSA initiative supported comparative spatial change analyses for the report. A number of indicators have been developed for the review and can be found on the [SACN website](#). The report also contains a data dashboard for each city using selected indicators drawn from the State of Cities Open Data Almanac. These items provide a snapshot of interesting and relevant trends.

For more information and to access the electronic version of the SoCR 2016 please visit the [SoCR webpage](#).



The Minister of CoGTA honourable Des Van Rooyen welcomed the 4th State of the Cities report and thanked the SA Cities Network leadership for putting together the report. Minister Van Rooyen said often the media will focus on the protest and other negative stories against the good stories that happen in municipalities across the country.

“Spatial alignment” for more effective and high impact government investment - CoGTA, SACN and CSIR explore progress and missing links

Much has been achieved over recent years in introducing spatial outcomes and principles in plans, policies and legislation. Progress is also being made with targeting government projects in priority areas. However, a major question that remains is whether the mere increase in the number of (often service delivery orientated) projects in selected areas would actually contribute to co-ordinated development of a city or region, and especially the need for strategic spatial transformation and long term sustainability.

These are some of the findings of a recent research project on spatial alignment conducted by the CSIR, in collaboration with the South African Cities Network (SACN) and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA). The project was designed to explore spatial alignment within the spatial and investment plans and frameworks set in place to guide and reflect the priorities and investment spending of government in municipal contexts. The study focussed on three regions where strategic government collaboration is of critical importance.

These included the

regional growth centre of Rustenburg, Ekurhuleni as an expanding metropolitan area and the fast growing town of Lephalale. The project entailed the analyses of a plethora of integrated and sector specific instruments that direct the planning, resource allocation, implementation, and monitoring of investment and the resultant spatial outcomes within these areas.

Amy Pieterse of the CSIR team noted that even though the study had some limitations as it only entailed a desk top review of plans, it generated a number of valuable insights. The study highlighted the gaps where plans do not exist or are outdated, the fact that many plans are without the expected spatial elements or very conceptual in nature. It also highlighted the challenges for strategic spatial alignment given the highly generic nature of longer term visions and spatial principles, as well as the lack of growth projections and possible spatial implications in future orientated plans.

In a presentation to the national Planning Alignment Task Team during March this year, Elsona van Huyssteen of the CSIR pointed out that evidence of high levels of vertical alignment were found within the domain of specific functional sectors (i.e. human settlements, transport and infrastructure investment) where spatial priorities seem to be driven by well-defined sector targets and catalytic

projects and associated funding and monitoring mechanisms. She, however, also highlighted some concerns. Firstly, regarding tensions between the spatial outcomes of project driven investment aimed at addressing service delivery-crises and priorities, and that of spatial outcomes highlighted in plans aimed at addressing city-wide or strategic regional challenges. Secondly, regarding limited strategic spatial direction and regional level spatial co-ordination focussed on identified regional priorities in the respective study areas and the lack of evidence of alignment between investment strategies, plans and SDFs of national, provincial and local government and government agencies in the study areas.

The findings from the study will be used to inform the extensive diagnostic processes of the World Bank's Urbanisation Review Framework. For more detail on the project scope and findings, visit the [project page on stepSA](#) or see presentations on project findings delivered by Amy Pieterse at the International Winelands Conference 2016 and by Elsona van Huyssteen at the [Planning Alignment Task Team](#) meeting of March 2016.

For more information contact **Amy Pieterse** or **Elsona van Huyssteen**; **Geci Karuri-Sebina** (SACN) or **Modjaji Malahlela** (COGTA).



Migration, Land and Housing: Surfacing findings from in-depth study in selected settlements in Rustenburg and Lephalale

In a recent study conducted by the HSRC as part of the stepSA initiative, the focus was placed on the implications of migration and settlement choices on land and housing needs amidst the mining boom and bust dynamics within the Platinum mining belt area. The study entailed a range of household questionnaires and key informant interviews with community leaders in a range of settlements in the Rustenburg and Lephalale areas. The study also included six focus group interviews in informal settlements, areas under traditional leadership and townships with backyard accommodation in Rustenburg and Lephalale. The specific settlements where focus groups were conducted were Stormhuis, Lemenong and Townland all in Rustenburg (North-West) and Gaseleka, Mamojela Park and Marapong in Lephalale (Limpopo). The key topics covered in the focus group discussions included access to land and housing, finance, migration, employment and social capital. The population composition of mining towns is rather diverse, in each focus group discussion (FGD) participants, without probing, mentioned the population groups that resided in their areas comprised of people from the local communities, rural-urban migrants from other provinces and international migrants from Lesotho, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

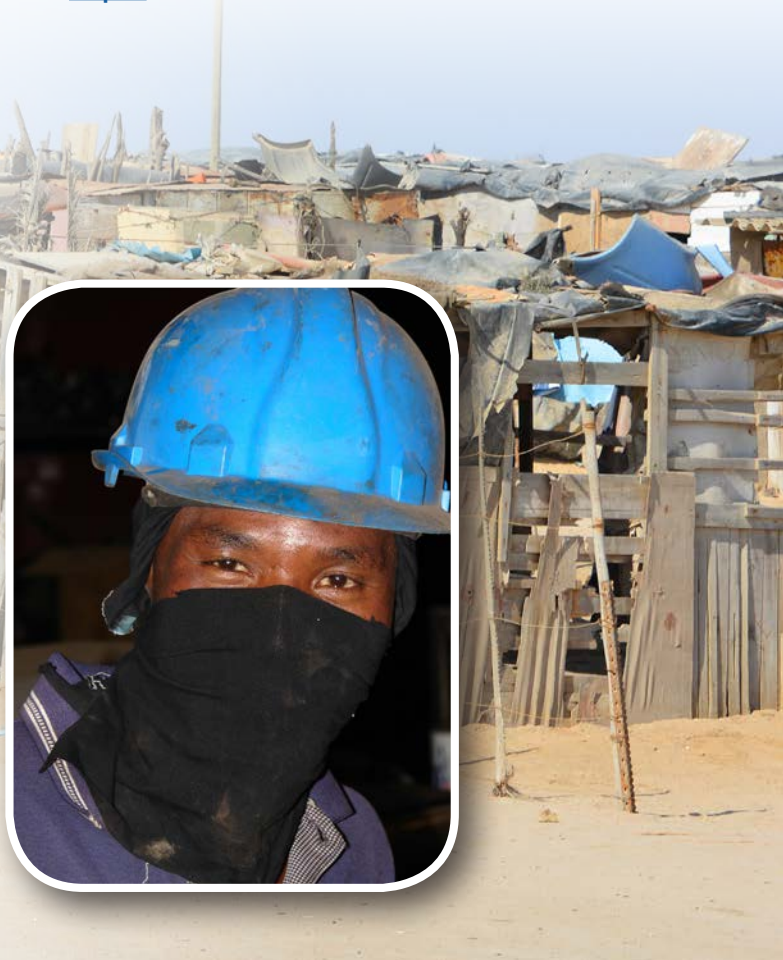
Stormhuis in the Marikana area is an area characterised by high levels of unemployment. Mining activities in the surrounding areas in Rustenburg are what attract people to the area. Although the mines around Marikana can no longer absorb the labour available in the region people keep moving in with the hope of getting employment in the mines. As a result the informal settlement had grown beyond the demarcated area resulting in evictions. As in Stormhuis (Marikana), the population of Lemenong comprises both migrants and citizens. Over the years, the closure of mines in the area has not been accompanied by the migration of people out of the area. Most people seem to have stayed with the hope of finding some form of employment in the remaining mines. There is a dire need for housing in the area.

The common challenge in the informal settlements and areas under traditional authority is access to land and housing. In Stormhuis (Marikana), the influx of people in the area has resulted in a greater need for land and housing. The informal settlements have mushroomed and evictions have become common. The main housing provider in the Stormhuis and surrounding areas was Lonmin, the mining company, but the housing is only provided to some of the Lonmin employees. Most of the residents believe that the government should provide housing to them because they are unemployed and therefore automatically qualify for RDP housing. However, it was not clear whether the residents of the area had taken any steps to apply for RDP housing and get onto the waiting list of the municipality. In Lemenong, the loss of employment implies that people cannot afford rental accommodation in the available formal housing; the result is overcrowding in the informal settlements and

backyard accommodation. The housing challenge is aggravated by the contestation around land ownership. The land in Lemenong is owned by the Royal Bafokeng Kingdom. Those who belong to the Royal Bafokeng are allowed to live in the area as long as they wish even if they lose their jobs.

The key pull factor to settlements in mining towns is the need for employment. However, the stark reality is that there is a dire shortage of housing which is aggravated by the different systems of land ownership. In the Rustenburg area, land is either owned by the mines or the Royal Bafokeng and the local government has to negotiate with land owners where housing is needed outside the boundaries of the municipality. People do not necessarily move out once a mine shaft has closed. Most remain in the hope of accessing employment in other shafts in the surrounding region. Unlike in other regions where mining is a dominant activity, mine shaft closures seem not to have resulted in the out-migration of people but rather in the settlement of people in areas without services or employment opportunities.

Visit [stepSA](#) for more information or contact **Catherine Ndinda**.



Rationalising the district court areas in South-Africa – the value of refined spatial indicators and accessibility analyses

According to Section 34 of the Constitution (1996), it is the right of every South African to have access to justice which also relates to the location of courts and their service areas. Owing to South Africa's past spatial development history, the location of people versus where facilities are, is not always in balance. Significant demographic change has occurred in many places since 1994 which may result in people being far from such facilities. In order to improve access to justice the process of re-demarcation of the magisterial districts was initiated by the Department of Justice and Correctional Services in 2014 and currently this has been completed in four provinces; namely the North West, Gauteng, Limpopo and North West provinces.

To support this process, the CSIR has undertaken geospatial accessibility analysis supplemented with several case specific investigations. The results of this analysis can in turn be quantified to produce a range of statistics for each area. Current spatial demarcations such as Enumerator Areas, Small Areas, Sub-places and Wards are not suitable for accessibility analysis due to their

significant zone-size variations across a region. As a result, a more uniform tessellation was created for each analysis area.

Using interaction-analysis software, the implication of boundary adjustments on service areas and average network travel distances to courts can be determined. The mapping of results is also provided to support the process (see example above).

Although geographic accessibility is useful to measure and propose changes with regard to magisterial districts, there are also other more functional realities that can affect access – these are typically not a spatial access issue. The accessibility analysis information provided serves as an input into the broader process followed by the Department of Justice and Correctional Services to determine the new magisterial district demarcation. The final demarcations of new proclaimed magisterial districts and courts can be accessed via the [Department of Justice and Correctional Services website](#).

For more information contact **Johan Maritz**, CSIR or **Mr. Makena Moagi**, Dept. of Justice and Correctional Services.

Strategic Environment Assessment of potential Shale Gas Development in the Karoo Basin uses stepSA town growth profiles!

Shale gas development (SGD) has been presented to the South African public and decision makers as a dichotomous trade-off between economic opportunity and environmental protection. The potential economic and energy security benefits of a large shale gas resource in the Karoo Basin could be substantial; as are both the positive and negative social and environmental issues associated with a domestic gas industry.

As such, it has already become a highly divisive topic, but one which is poorly informed by publically-available evidence. To address this lack of critically-evaluated information, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for SGD was commissioned in February 2015 by the Department of Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, with the support of the National Departments of Energy, Mineral Resources, Water Affairs and Sanitation, Science and Technology, and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and

the Provincial Departments of the Eastern, Western and Northern Cape governments. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) coordinated the SEA, in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and Council for Geoscience (CGS).

According to Elsona van Huyssteen (one of the authors of the chapter considering the possible implications of potential SGD exploration and production on infrastructure and spatial planning in the region), the socio-economic spatial indicators and profiles available on the stepSA website is ideally suited for SEAs that require socio-economic and settlement information, as the indicators are not bound to administrative areas and enable temporal analyses. It has enabled the team to analyse existing spatial and population movement patterns and compare the growth of towns in the area.

The SEA report outlines what might happen

if SGD proceeds, in terms of four scenarios:

1. No SGD at all: What is likely to happen in the Karoo region in the next 30 years?
2. SGD exploration
3. Limited SGD production
4. Full/large-scale SGD production.

The comment period was 30 days; 14th June to 15th July, extended to the 20th. The website provides detail of how the draft SEA. The report covers 18 sectors; ranging from water, seismic impacts, and land use planning, to tourism, social fabric and the "sense of place" of the Karoo.

This comment and review processes are completely independent – not beholden at all to shale gas companies, government or any other interest group and participation through comments and public processes were welcomed.

For more information on the SEA for SGD in the Karoo basin, please visit the [official website](#).

If you require any further information on the stepSA initiative, have any requests, encounter any broken links, incorrect links, inaccurate information or have a general concern or question pertaining to any of stepSA's website pages, feel free to contact stepsa@csir.co.za.