

PROGRAMME ACTORS AND FUNCTIONS

The South African municipal partners

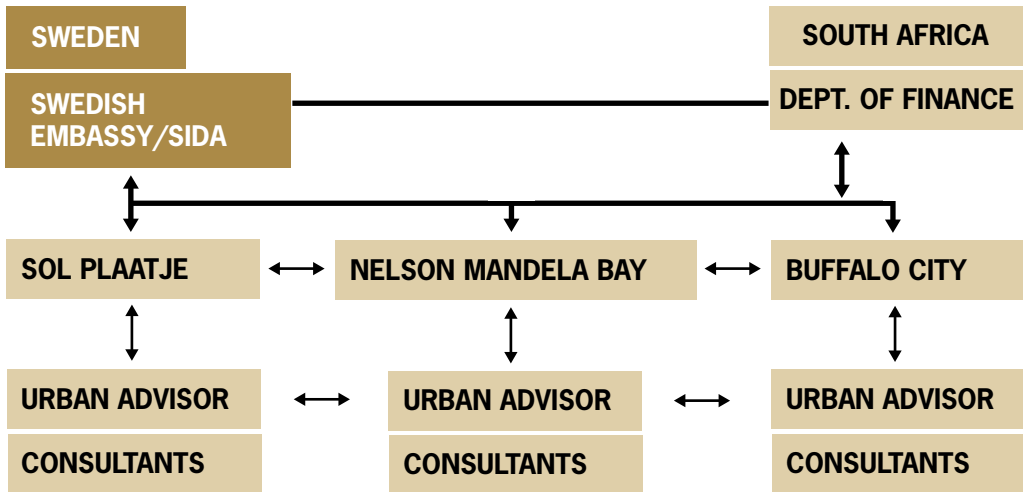
The former municipalities of Kimberley and Port Elizabeth were identified as cooperation partners as they had suitable social, political and institutional conditions for the design and implementation of innovative financial, technical and participative approaches to housing and urban development. Sida's support aimed to assist the municipalities to introduce alternative approaches to urban and housing development, and to restructure and integrate their cities.

Participatory strategic planning exercises were carried out early in the implementation process. All key stakeholders in Kimberley and Port Elizabeth, together with Swedish consultants, participated in defining areas of cooperation and expected outputs. Functions and responsibilities were then established for the different stakeholders and project actors. Councillors and officials from both Kimberley and Port Elizabeth undertook a comprehensive study tour to Sweden in 1996 to identify Swedish know-how of interest for the programme and to further develop the implementation plans for the Urban Programme.

After a programme evaluation in 1998, an extension of the programme was proposed in order to benefit more municipalities in the country; hereafter King Williams Town was identified as the third partner municipality.

Cooperation with Swedish municipalities

Partnerships between South African and Swedish municipalities were initiated during the development of the Comprehensive Urban Plans (CUPs), and became fundamental components in the Urban Programme. Göteborg and the cities of Falun and Borlänge became partners to Port Elizabeth and Kimberley respectively. Initial contacts were established in the late 90's, followed by several exchange study tours focusing on urban development planning. Formal agreements were signed between



Kimberley and Falun/Borlänge in February 1999, and between Port Elizabeth and Göteborg in November 1999.

The idea of partnering Buffalo City with a Swedish municipality arose in 2001, inspired by the two existing partnerships. After exploratory visits, a partnership was established between Buffalo City Municipality and Gävle in 2002. The many exchange visits and cooperation projects implemented through these municipal partnerships have contributed to valuable knowledge and technology exchanges. The Urban Programme partnerships have led to renewed agreements between the same municipalities (apart from between Sol Plaatje and Falun/Borlänge), under the new Sida-supported Municipal Partnership North-South Programme, administered by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR).

The structure of the Sida-supported Urban Development Programme in South Africa.

Roles and responsibilities

The overall cooperation agreement was a bilateral agreement between the South African and Swedish governments. Sida and the Swedish Embassy in Pretoria decided how to allocate financial and technical resources, and Sida’s Urban Division had an advisory role during implementation. Separate implementing agreements were signed between the Swedish Embassy, the National Treasury and each of the municipalities: Sol Plaatje, Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City. The City Engineers Department (Sol Plaatje) and Municipal Manager’s Office (Nelson Mandela and Buffalo City) were responsible for implementing the agreements. The Urban Advisors facilitated and monitored project implementation and various consultants took part in the programme.

International (Swedish) and South African professionals worked ‘shoulder to shoulder’ in many of the projects, and most of the

South African municipal staff and consultants involved had an international partner with whom they collaborated closely.

Sida Stockholm

Sida Stockholm assured that all programme activities were in line with Sida's overall development goals and policies. Sida Stockholm also procured and provided technical support and cooperated with the Embassy of Sweden in Pretoria in the monitoring and follow-up of the programme.

Sida Pretoria

The Swedish Embassy in Pretoria assured that the programme was implemented in line with the approved country strategy for the development cooperation between Sweden and South Africa. The Embassy allocated the funding for the programme from the development cooperation country allocation for South Africa, and made disbursements directly to the municipalities. Finally, the embassy had the responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

The municipalities

The municipalities were the 'owners' of the programme. They contributed professional and administrative staff, office space and logistical support for project implementation. They also administered the payment of all local consultants.

International and South African technical support

Most support has been technical support provided by consultants:

- Resident Sida Urban Advisors in the municipalities were responsible for facilitation and coordination, as well as for providing inputs in their areas of technical competence (e.g. housing, spatial planning, etc.)
- Long-term international advisors and consultants were responsible for specific projects such as Comprehensive Urban Planning, Waste Management, the Urban Renewal Programmes, and the Environmental Management and Coastal Zone Management projects.
- Short-term South African and international experts supported a wide range of projects, including support to IDP processes, the Sustainable Communities Project, Geographical Information Systems, public transport planning and housing policy development. Some were also responsible for implementing projects and providing technical support through the municipal partnership programmes.