



South Africa's national urban development policy – the IUDF

AN OVERVIEW



cooperative governance
& traditional affairs

Department:
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



IUDF

INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

South Africa is experiencing continuing urbanisation. The United Nations estimates that 71.3% of the South African population will live in urban areas by 2030, reaching nearly 80% by 2050. In response to this reality, South Africa has developed the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) in order to manage the scale and growth of South Africa's cities and towns. This will require a concerted and cooperative effort by government and stakeholders to manage urban development effectively.

The IUDF context

The National Development Plan (NDP) indicated that by 2030 South Africa should observe meaningful and measurable progress in creating more functionally integrated, balanced and vibrant urban settlements. To attain this goal, the Department of Cooperative Governance, working in collaboration with other national departments, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), South African Cities Network (SACN) and supported by the Deutsche Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), developed the IUDF to transform and restructure South Africa's urban spaces. The IUDF seeks to foster a shared understanding across

government and society about how best to manage urbanisation and achieve the goals of economic development, job creation and improved living conditions by addressing current urban inefficiencies as outlined in the NDP. The IUDF responds to, and also builds on various chapters of the NDP, particularly chapter 8 'Transforming human settlements and the national space economy'.

It provides a framework for reorganising the urban system so that cities and towns can become more inclusive, safe, productive and resource efficient, thus becoming good places to work and live in.



The IUDF vision

The IUDF marks a New Deal for South African cities and towns. The New Deal outlined in the IUDF is about maximising the potential of urban areas, by integrating and aligning investments in a way that improves the urban form. It is about retro-fitting the existing city footprint to produce compact, coordinated and connected cities, using transit-oriented development (TOD) and other urban planning strategies to yield desirable social, economic and environmental outcomes, as envisioned in the NDP.

The IUDF aims to guide the development of inclusive, resilient and liveable urban settlements, while directly addressing the unique conditions and challenges facing South Africa's cities and towns.

The vision for South Africa's urban areas recognises that the country has different types of cities and towns, each with different roles and requirements. As such, the vision has to be interpreted and pursued in differentiated and locally relevant ways.

To achieve this transformative vision, four overall strategic goals were introduced:

Spatial integration: To forge new spatial forms in

settlements, transport, social and economic areas

Inclusion and access: To ensure people have access to social and economic services, opportunities and choices.

Growth: To harness urban dynamism for inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development.

Governance: To enhance the capacity of the state and its citizens to work together to achieve spatial and social integration.

Core elements of the IUDF

The nine policy levers inform key areas for intervention and action to achieve the strategic goals and objectives of the IUDF. The nine policy levers are premised on the understanding that (1) integrated urban planning forms the basis for achieving integrated urban policy actions (2) integrated transport that informs (3) targeted investments into integrated human settlements, underpinned by (4) integrated infrastructure network systems and (5) efficient land governance which all together can trigger (6) economic diversification and inclusion, and (7) empower communities; all of the above will demand effective (8) governance and (9) financial reform to enable and sustain these policy action.



Policy level 1: Integrated urban planning and management

Integrated urban planning is essential for coherent development. It stimulates a more rational organisation and use of urban spaces, guides investment and encourages prudent use of land and natural resources to build sustainable communities.

Level 1 – Objective

To create cities and towns that are well planned and efficient, and so capture the benefit of productivity and growth, invest in integrated social and economic development, and reduce pollution and carbon emissions, resulting in a sustainable quality of life for all citizens.

Policy level 2: Integrated transport and mobility

Integrated transport and mobility is a vital component of South Africa's economic infrastructure investment. It contributes to a denser and more efficient urban form, supports economic and social development, and is crucial for strengthening rural-urban linkages.

Level 2 – Objective

To create cities and towns where goods and services are transported efficiently, and people can walk, cycle and use different transport modes to access economic opportunities, education institutions, health facilities and places of recreation.

Policy level 3: Integrated and sustainable human settlements

Integrated and sustainable human settlements are key to redressing the prevailing apartheid geography, restructuring cities, shifting ownership, and creating more humane (and environment-friendly), safe living and working conditions.

Level 3 – Objective

To create cities and towns that are liveable, integrated and multi-functional, in which all settlements are well connected to essential and social services, as well as to areas of work opportunities.

Policy level 4: Integrated urban infrastructure

An integrated urban infrastructure, which is resource efficient and provides for both universal access and more inclusive economic growth, needs to be extensive and strong enough to meet industrial, commercial and household needs. It should also be planned in a way that supports the development of an efficient and equitable urban form and facilitates access to social and economic opportunities.

Level 4 – Objective

To create cities and towns that have transitioned from traditional approaches to resource-efficient infrastructure systems, which provide for both universal access and more inclusive economic growth.

Policy level 5: Efficient land governance and management

Both municipalities and private investors have a vested interest in land value remaining stable and increasing. At the same time, property values reflect apartheid patterns of segregation and mono-functional use, which need to be addressed to promote spatial transformation. Efficient land governance and management will contribute to the growth of inclusive and multi-functional urban spaces.

Level 5 – Objective

To create cities and towns that grow through investments in land and property, providing income for municipalities, which allows further investments in infrastructure and services, resulting in inclusive, multi-functional urban spaces.

Policy level 6: Inclusive economic development

The New Growth Path (NGP), which is the backbone of our national economic policy, emphasises the importance of creating employment nationally through specific drivers. These include seizing the potential of the new economies through technological innovation, investing in social capital and public services, and focusing on spatial development. Inclusive economic development is essential to creating jobs, generating higher incomes and creating viable communities.

Level 6 – Objective

To create cities and towns that are dynamic and efficient, foster entrepreneurialism and innovation, sustain livelihoods, enable inclusive economic growth, and generate the tax base needed to sustain and expand public services and amenities.

Policy level 7: Empowered active communities

Cities cannot succeed without the energy and investment of their citizens. In fact, the very power of cities stems from their unique capacity to bring together a critical mass of social and cultural diversity. This conception of democratic citizenship, at the core of the 'active citizenship' agenda advocated by the NDP, empowers communities to share and contribute to the development of spaces and will transform quality of urban life.

Level 7 – Objective

To create cities and towns that are stable, safe, just and tolerant, and respect and embrace diversity, equality of opportunity and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons.

Policy level 8: Effective urban governance

The complexities of urban governance include managing the intergovernmental dynamics within the city and relations with the national, before province and neighbouring municipalities. Effective urban governance will result in the creation of well-functioning, accountable, transparent and capable institutions that deliver on their roles and responsibilities.

Level 8 – Objective

To create cities and towns that have the necessary institutional, fiscal and planning capabilities to manage multiple urban stakeholders and intergovernmental relations, in order to build inclusive, resilient and liveable urban spaces.

Policy level 9: Sustainable finances

Cities work within an intergovernmental scale framework and are affected by the decisions and actions taken by provincial and national government. Furthermore, with well-managed revenue and expenditure, cities are able to expand their resources, thereby meeting expenditure demands, and to access capital markets, allowing them to achieve greater scale and efficiency when investing in infrastructure.

Level 9 – Objective

To create cities and towns that are supported by a fiscal framework that acknowledges the development potential and pressures of urban spaces manage their finances effectively and efficiently, and are able to access the necessary resources and partnerships for inclusive urban growth.

IUDF cross-cutting priorities

The three cross-cutting IDF priorities described below are intended to be included in the conceptualisation and implementation of the IUDF policy levers.

Rural-urban interdependency: this concept recognises the need for a more comprehensive integrated approach to urban development that responds to both the urban and the rural environments.

Urban resilience: describes urban environmental sustainability as well as disaster risk reduction and mitigation interventions in the planning and management of urban areas.

Urban safety: this refers to the importance of people's safety in public spaces, which is an essential ingredient for creating liveable and prosperous cities.

IUDF implementation plan

The IUDF's implementation is multifaceted. Each of the nine policy levers as outlined above plus the cross cutting priorities, require the participation of a number of stakeholders across all spheres and sectors of government, the private sector, non-profit organizations, local community organizations and sector interest groups. When these various groups collaborate and are driven by the same vision and agenda, the desired urban transformation can be achieved.

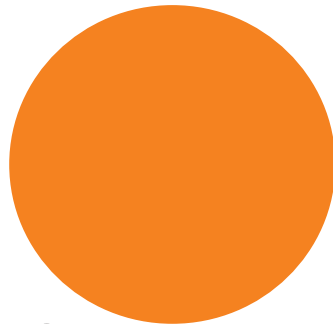
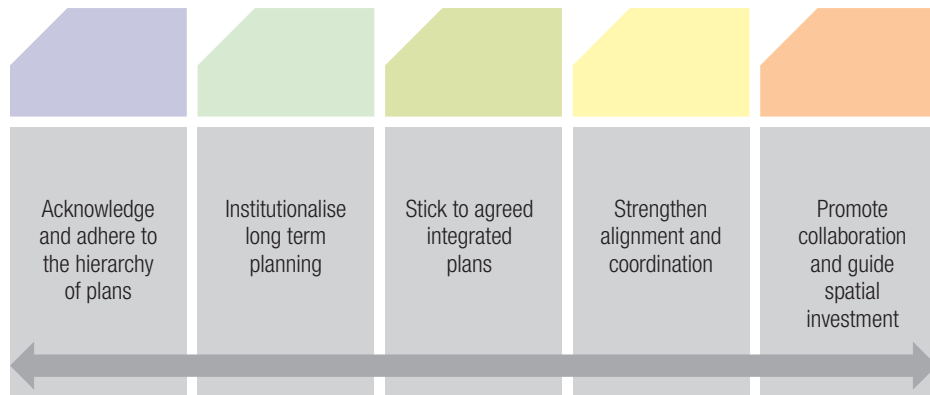
These principles are explained in detail in the IUDF implementation plan. The overall goal of this collaborative plan is to progressively achieve the 'urban dividend' through spatially transformative urban interventions across each policy lever. The plan also prioritises short term interventions for implementation for each of the IUDF priority areas. Roles and responsibilities are identified for each intervention for government, stakeholders and citizens.

Since the advent of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the global agreement reached at Habitat III in Ecuador in October 2016, South Africa is now developing a Localisation Framework (LF) for implementation. This framework is emerging through an alignment process between the Action Framework for New Urban Agenda

(AFINUA), and the IUDF. The new agenda will result in one integrated urban development implementation plan, currently referenced as the IUDF +.

In this way, South Africa seeks to advance its urban agenda; that is - through the transformative commitments of the NUA, which 'provides a common roadmap for the 20 years to come'; through the implementation of SDG Goal 11: Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and through its own country specific national urban policy, the IUDF.

The IUDF implementation plan is informed by the following principles



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