



# Creating resilient settlements through climate change adaptation planning

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**a.**



# Introduction



# Introduction

## Urban Challenges



Air pollution



Climate change



Urban poverty



Unaffordable housing



Exclusion & inequality



Congestion



Insufficient public transport



Unplanned city extension



Urban sprawl



Informal settlement



Insanitary water



Ageing population



Surging youth



Inadequate infrastructure



Lack of capacity



Lack of participatory process





Photo: Ashraf Hendriks  
groudup.org.za



Photo: Thulani Dlamini  
timeslive.co.za

# Introduction

Climate change related impacts on vulnerable households, communities, town economies and critical infrastructure and services are often most profound at the settlement and town level, and thus where adaptation is needed most.



# Introduction

Climate change adaptation is not far removed from regular local government planning, especially spatial planning, and there are existing linkages and overlaps between the two that can facilitate the creation of resilient settlements in South Africa.

*Resilient East is about making sure the Eastern region remains a vibrant, desirable and productive place to live, work and visit and that our businesses, communities and environments can respond positively to the challenges and opportunities presented by changing climate.*



<http://www.urps.com.au>



**b.**

## **Climate change and local government**



# Climate change and local government

Local government is responsible for service delivery and infrastructure investment; cross-sectoral integration and spatial development; alignment of government spending; and disaster management.



# Climate change and local government

The role of national and provincial government in climate change adaptation are multi-faceted, playing out in over-arching policy and legislative direction, the range of sector specific climate change strategies, and financial and capacity support to local government.



# Climate change and local government

Local government should integrate climate change into their SDFs, IDPs and other budgeting and planning instruments. It is clear that local government is a key player in the adaptation process, but what is less clear is the mandated role of local government. This has left local government to deal with the compounded effects of climate change and developmental challenges without sufficient mandate or resources.



# The relationship between spatial planning and climate change adaptation

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**Spatial planning is a decision-making process aimed at realizing economic, social, cultural and environmental goals through the development of spatial visions, strategies and plans and the application of a set of policy principles, tools, institutional and participatory mechanisms and regulatory procedures**

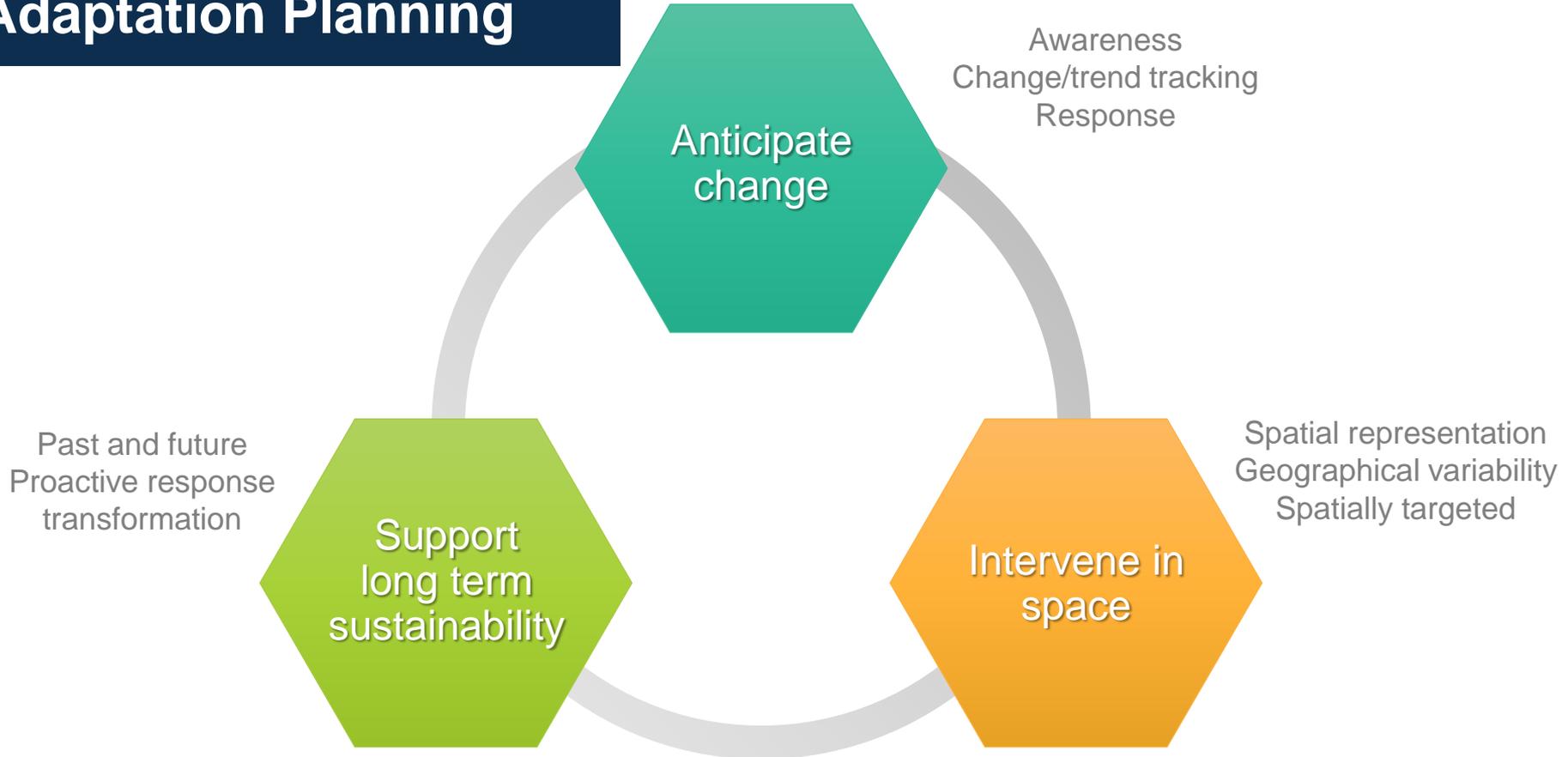
”

“

**Climate change adaptation is the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects**

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# Adaptation Planning





d.

## Building resilience through adaptation planning



# Adaptation planning for resilience

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Local governments are at the centre of successful adaptation because much of adaptation depends on local government integrating it into local policies, plans and processes.



# Adaptation planning for resilience

Efforts to address climate change is often neglected in favour of immediate development dilemmas such service delivery crises, and many local plans have short-term horizons that are in conflict with the long term implications of climate change.

“

**Good planning practices are,  
by nature, also climate smart  
planning practices**

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# Adaptation planning for resilience

Spatial planning that integrates adaptation measures offers opportunities to protect cities against anticipated impacts of climate change, while simultaneously protecting past development gains as well as addressing the present development agenda.



# Conclusion



# Conclusion

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Spatial planning has the ability to potentially either increase local capacity to manage climate change and reduce exposure to risk, or it can establish unsustainable and maladaptive development pathways that increase vulnerability in cities.



# Conclusion

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The conceptual, logical and somewhat practical, overlaps between spatial planning and climate change adaptation provides an opportunity for integration of climate change adaptation within existing local government planning instruments and processes, through adaptation planning.



# Conclusion

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A commitment to sustainable adaptation planning would require a shift in the ideas, values and goals guiding development and urban management as well as adjustments in the institutional frameworks related to decisions, actions and support



# GREENBOOK

*adapting settlements for the future*

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## Thank you

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