

# KUPSA PART 5: KUBiC

*The Klipriviersberg Sustainability Association (KlipSA) is a community based organisation promoting a new approach to development in the southern areas of Johannesburg. Its aim is to protect, promote and enhance the value of the natural assets in the south of Johannesburg, in particular the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve and surrounds. This is the fifth in a series of ongoing articles.*

KUBiC is the Klipriver Urban Biodiversity Corridor and was launched in October 2012 as an initiative of the Thaba Eco Hotel. It forms part of the abovementioned development vision, embracing the following: ● future development founded in protecting, promoting and adding value to the area's natural assets through sustainable economic and social development; ● key economic growth through tourism, agriculture and associated eco- and agro-tourism; ● creating a unique lifestyle for people to live, work and play.

KUBiC aims to create a unique experience when entering and leaving Joburg along a major green corridor, taking into account environmental, economic and social aspects. The environmental aspects embrace the following: ● establish self-sustaining, attractive habitats which add to the biodiversity of the area; ● improve the linkages between fragmented formal, informal and natural areas of open space; ● promote biodiversity in the mixed use, developed urban areas; ● improve aesthetics along the corridor and into surrounding urban areas; and ● mitigate carbon emissions and air pollution.

From an economic point of view, KUBiC aims to: ● promote tourism and investment; ● improve the visual experience and impression of the south, and along Klipriver Drive; ● improve property values and increase investment opportunities; ● reduce costs of maintenance and urban management along the roadsides; ● improve accessibility into and out of the city from the south; and ● improve the environment for business to do its business.

From a social point of view, KUBiC aims to: ● improve the living conditions of those living next to Klipriver Drive; ● improve the working conditions of those working along Klipriver Drive; ● provide job creation and employment opportunities; ● improve mobility through improved non-motorised and public transport facilities and services; ● reduce social problems and costs; ● improve open space areas for active and passive recreation; and ● strengthen civic identity and pride of communities.

## Ecological survey

A preliminary ecological survey was undertaken along the corridor and revealed the number of diverse natural and man-made environments, the

fragmentation of open areas, industrial and residential areas, Klipriviersberg ridges and natural areas unique to an urban setting, and finally the lack of linkages and networks of open space along and into adjacent areas.

From the initial ecological survey, the following preliminary proposals were made: ● determine the nature and extent of the biodiversity value; ● establish the continuum of biodiversity in terms of built up and transformed areas as well as open and untransformed areas; ● re-vegetation possibilities; ● recommendations for species planting; ● in order to avoid genetic contamination, a proposal was made to use only plants propagated from local genetic stock or indigenous plants that do not occur locally.

## Future activities and sponsors

The future activities and actions for KUBiC are as follows: ● the project is expected to take 3-5 years; ● the potential investment is between R5-10 million; ● there should be extensive stakeholder engagement and funding possibilities; ● promotion and marketing needs to take place; ● detailed designs need to be done, taking into account the removal of alien vegetation, road users, businesses and residential users along the corridor; pedestrians and cyclists, visibility and security issues, the safety of road and sidewalk users, advertising, signage, services and infrastructure.

Current partners and sponsors for KUBiC include Thaba Eco Hotel, SOJO Business and Tourism, KlipSA, City of Joburg, Joburg City Parks & Zoo, Rand Water/Water Wise, Kironia Environmental, Green Earth Landscaping, Aspen Nature Reserve and Howden Africa. It is hoped that companies, organisations, schools, communities and individuals will become involved and that sponsorships and donations will materialise for trees, shrubs, plants, compost and mulch. Expertise and knowledge is also required and it is hoped that the area could become a focal point for Arbour Month activities.

There will be scope for sustainability projects as well as corporate social investment opportunities and carbon credit opportunities.

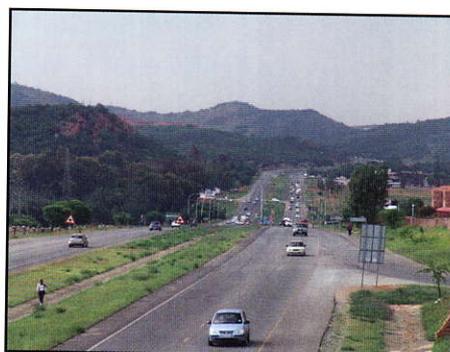
## Adding value

It is widely expected that KUBiC will: ● bring value to the place, people and future business of Joburg south; ● contribute to the protection, promotion and enhancement of the natural assets and biodiversity of the area; and ● realise economic, social and environmental opportunities through collaboration with business, the community and the authorities.

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In some areas additional planting will add to a greater diversity of plant species



Species selection through the Klipriviersberg will focus on locally sourced material



Boysens Road will present interesting challenges in respect of plant material and placing