



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Urban Ecosystems in Cape Town

Value-adding ecological assets

Councillor Alex Lansdowne
Mayoral Advisory Committee:
Water Quality in Wetlands &
Waterways



The contradictions of urban South Africa



Most Biodiverse
City on the planet



RAMSAR City
Wetland



Functional City
government



Global
ecotourism
destination

- Large population growth
- Rapid urbanisation
- Strained bulk infrastructure
- Massive Informality
- Inadequate access to safe green open spaces

The contradictions of urban South Africa



Diep River floodplain near Du Noon

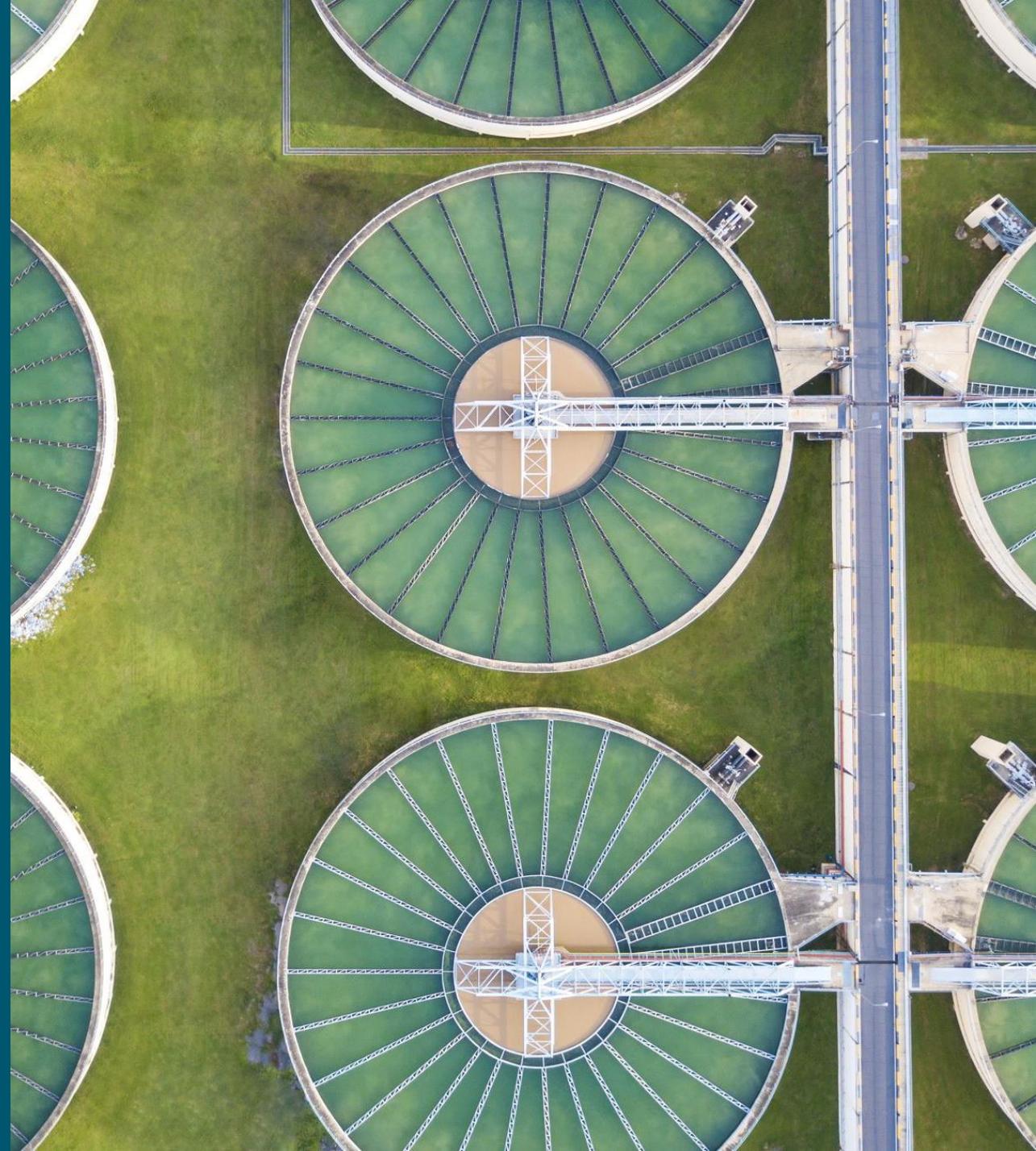
Building infrastructure to protect our shared resources

Potsdam Wastewater Plant Upgrade: R5.2 billion (Approved by CoCT in March 2023)

Total Cape Town Capital Budget (23/24): R11 billion

Rooiwal Wastewater Plant Upgrade: R4 billion

Total Tshwane Capital Budget (23/24): R2.35 billion



Avitourism in South Africa

- 40 000 avitourists p/a
- R2.2 billion contribution to GDP
- Spend more, visit more places

*2009, DTI



False Bay Nature Reserve

- A RAMSAR accredited nature reserve
- Wastewater plant within the nature reserve
- Birders, Nature lovers, watersports
- Ecosystem Services to the City
- Globally renowned birding opportunities



What do wetlands have to do with you?

- Protecting urban birding habitats allows for sustainable use elsewhere.
- You can only conserve nature where people use it (= find value).
- Cape Town can and must be a global ecotourism destination, through sustainable use.





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THANK YOU | DANKIE | ENKOSI

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