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1. INTRODUCTION

This booklet covers development cooperation and international relations efforts for the period 2006 to 2011. These are the targeted efforts of the municipality to mobilize resource, improve service delivery and improve skills and capacity within the municipality. Municipal International relations is a policy framework which enables municipalities, communities, and community based organisations to develop and establish links with and among one another in different countries for purposes of sharing information, experiences and expertise in matters of mutual interest in respect of Buffalo City’s and South African foreign relations. International linkages may provide numerous benefits including facilitating the sharing of international expertise and best practice experience.

Buffalo City takes its cue directly from the South African Foreign Policy which has the country’s interest at heart. However, the Buffalo City community has been the direct beneficiary to all most all projects and interventions throughout the city, which is apt given the aim of development cooperation and international relations, should be to make a contribution towards strengthening governance and local democracy, and reducing poverty.

The partnerships with Gävle - Sweden, Leiden – Netherlands, Milwaukee County- USA, Glasgow – Scotland and Region of Tuscany- Italy through their donor agencies all strive to achieve this ideal. It has however become essential to localize international relations so that local communities understand the strategic nature of our international engagements. This will help eradicate many misconceptions and confusions which clouds development cooperation and international relations efforts.

2. THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICY

In the period since South Africa’s transition to democracy, local government international relations became an integral part of the growing contact between South Africa and the rest of the world both at a bilateral and multilateral level. South African municipalities including Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality have been participating extensively in numerous activities with international associations; and as a result, a wide range of international cooperation arrangements between municipalities from South Africa and other countries have been established. These range from twinning agreements to exchange programmes which are guided by the South African Foreign Policy.

The South African Foreign Policy guides all international relations activities in the country. It provides the priorities of the South African government which municipalities and other participants need to mindful of when embarking on international relations activities.

South Africa’s Foreign Policy priorities are as follows:

Consolidation of the African Agenda:

Consolidation of the African Agenda by strengthening the African Union (AU) and the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), capacitating the South African Customs Union (SACU) as a motivating force for an integrated and effective Southern African Development Community (SADC);

South – South Cooperation:

This cooperation is of strategic importance in the pursuit of RSA foreign policy objectives of addressing the challenges of economic and political marginalisation emanating from globalisation which favours the countries of the North. Endeavouring to advance the agenda of Africa and the South, South Africa actively engages and cooperates with like-minded countries in regional and sub-regional blocs of the South such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the G77, China (and the China – Africa Forum), the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) and...
2. THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICY

North – South Dialogue:
South Africa’s engagement with the developed countries of the North is premised on the notion of forging partnerships and bringing about peace, security and development in the South. South Africa together with other leaders of the African continent has systematically engaged leaders of developed countries including those of the most industrialised countries (G8) specifically to secure support for NEPAD. Consequently NEPAD has become a regular item on the agenda of the G8 summits.

Participation in Global Governance:
Meaningful participation in Global Governance, regarding the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization and the Bretton Wood Institutions (the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank), South Africa strives for fundamental reform in the governance and management of these institutions with a view to enhancing equity, transparency and efficiency. South Africa has adopted an engaging stance with major economic powers of the world in terms of issues in the global environment that are not favourable to South Africa and Southern Africa. In multilateral forums and through bilateral negotiations, South Africa aspires to amend the rules formulated in the past by specific interest groups, whether political or institutional so that it is in the interest of the continent.

The underlying principles which serve as guidelines in the conduct of our foreign relations were coined by Minister Alfred Nzo at the Heads of Mission Conference, held in September 1995, in Pretoria. The principles include:

a) a commitment to the promotion of human rights;
b) a commitment to the promotion of democracy;
c) a commitment to justice and international law in the conduct of relations between nations;
d) a commitment to international peace and to internationally agreed-upon mechanisms for the resolution of conflicts;
e) a commitment to the interests of Africa in World Affairs; and
f) a commitment to economic development through regional and international cooperation in an interdependent world.”

These principles form the basis of all Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality’s engagements.

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

In terms of the Policy Framework and Procedural Guidelines for Management of ODA, there is an increasing emphasis on government service delivery, capacity-building in support of service-delivery, and an increased decentralisation of support. According to the Framework, there is also an increasing realisation in Government and amongst the international donor community that development co-operation can play an even greater role in the massive task of reconstruction and development delivery. As funds are channeled through the RDP (Reconstruction and Development Programme) Fund, National Treasury is responsible for overall ODA coordination and in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality various departments municipality manage the official development assistance from various donors, namely European Union (EU), GTZ (Germany Development Assistance) and other donors.
3. BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

International relations and more especially development cooperation has been one of the priority needs of the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

Buffalo City’s approach to international relations is largely driven by the opportunities that can be harnessed for not only the municipality but the city as a whole. It is development aligned and ensures that the municipality’s involvement in establishing and maintaining international relationships has to contribute to:

- Economic development of the area including, but not limited to, tourism, investment and trade;
- Cultural development of the area including, but not limited to, respect for different cultures and artistic pursuits;
- Social development including, but not limited to, sporting exchanges and horticultural interests; and
- Educational development including, but not limited to, links between NGO’s, CBO’s, the business community and other areas of exchange.

Through the alignment of the development cooperation and international relations efforts and agreements Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality is able to:

- Facilitate information and knowledge sharing;
- Equip councillors with additional skills and capacity;
- Build managerial and technical capacity;
- Promote Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality as an attractive location for investment and tourism;
- Develop project partnerships for mutual benefits;
- Address regional and global challenges that have local impact which need to be tackled on a broad basis; and
- Contribute to global understanding, solidarity and peace.

BCMM has recognised the importance to ensure that its development cooperation and international relations should not be ad hoc but rather guided by a clear framework recognising the importance of alignment with inter alia the priorities of South African Foreign Policy. In this regard a Municipal International Relations Framework was drafted and adopted by Council in 2008. The document provides an overview of the workings of the international relations, objectives and priorities which warrant the attention of all participants of the municipality, the country and foreign counterparts.

Whilst international development cooperation or aid is actioned by donors providing funds for developmental projects following an application process, aid also comes in the form of funding towards implementing projects, expertise, skills transfer and capacity building and also goods, such as food aid and secondhand books.

In order to ensure meaningful cooperation with partner cities, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality has entered into agreements in the form of declaration of intents or memorandum of understandings. Detailed Frameworks have also been developed to accompany and complement the agreements.

For international partners management and coordination of donor aid and programmes is seen as a priority. Buffalo City manages and co-ordinates the partnership programmes, through the International Relations Unit in the Department of Communication and Development Cooperation. The role of the development cooperation and international relations unit is to manage and coordinate all sister city partnerships, international donor relations and other strategic international relations that will strategically enhance the municipality’s integrated development plan.

The unit prepares planned activities, budgets, and six-monthly and annual reports and also has the overall responsibility for the co-ordination of the partnership programme in close co-operation with the respective project leaders.

As part of the growth and evolution of the Buffalo City partnerships BCMM saw the need to align to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in order to make a more meaningful contribution towards reducing poverty by 2015. There are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world’s main development challenges.

- **Goal 1**: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- **Goal 2**: Achieve universal primary education
- **Goal 3**: Promote gender equality and empower women
- **Goal 4**: Reduce child mortality
- **Goal 5**: Improve maternal health
- **Goal 6**: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- **Goal 7**: Ensure environmental sustainability
- **Goal 8**: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

At present the BCMM partnerships is fully aligned to one of the eight goals namely global partnership. However, the partnerships have over the years focused on aspects of the MDG goals namely, Poverty Eradication, Gender Equality and Empowerment of women, HIV/Aids, Health, Education and Environmental Sustainability. The aim is now to also align many of the international partnership activities to the MDG’s.
The vision of the Buffalo City municipal partnerships is to improve development cooperation efforts by strengthening local government through strategic project identification and implementation, exchange of knowledge and experiences, and building capacity of politicians and officials in order to enhance service delivery.

Some of the more prominent current initiatives of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality include twinning agreements directly or through other partners are with the following cities:

01 Gävle, Sweden funded by ICLD (International Centre for Local Democracy)
02 Leiden, Netherlands funded by VNG and Union of Waterboards
03 Milwaukee, USA funded by Sister Cities International
04 Glasgow, Scotland funded by Commonwealth Local Government Fund
05 Netsafrica, Tuscany, Italy funded by the Region of Tuscany
The overall goals of the partnership programme which is funded by the International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) are to:

• Strengthen local democracy;
• Alleviate the effects of poverty;
• Improve the competence and capacity of the parties in their developmental role and as service-providers to their respective communities; and
• Share knowledge in a spirit of mutual support and respect.

The activities that form part of the partnership are aligned with the priorities, goals and objectives as set by Buffalo City and Gävle in their respective Development Plans and Policies.

However, Buffalo City’s partnership with Sweden goes back to 1999 when the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) as part of its Urban Development Programme in South Africa, had an extensive development co-operation programme with King William’s Town.

Sida had been involved with the Comprehensive Urban Planning programme in the erstwhile King William’s Town Local Council, which later formed part of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality through amalgamation in 2000.

In June 2002 the idea of exploring the potential of a partnership between the municipalities of Buffalo City and Gävle came about. After some preliminary deliberations it was decided to approach Sida to support investigations into the feasibility of such a partnership.

Following successful exploratory visits to both cities a Declaration of Intent and a Framework Programme for the partnership between the municipalities were subsequently agreed to and signed by the respective Mayors on 03 December 2002. Since then, three agreements have been signed and frameworks approved. The 2011 to 2013 agreement was signed in February 2011.

The Sida-BCMM programme included core themes of co-operation agreed upon within the framework of a national inter-governmental agreement for a period originally intended to end in July 2004 but due to the positive outcome of the Urban Programme it was extended to June 2007. However, Sida’s direct involvement in the disbursement of aid ended in 2007 and in March 2007, SALAIDA the interim funding agency was phased in. In January 2009, SALAIDA was phased out and new programme under the International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) was instituted. The partnership of Buffalo City and Gävle is currently funded by ICLD.

Unlike other donors the Sida supported programmes require that partners are able to show mutual benefits from activities. This partnership has recognised Buffalo City as an equal partner not in terms of monetary contribution but in terms of sharing of lessons, contribution to partnership activities and the ability to improve the knowledge and capacity of partners and other actors.
From progress reports and evaluations undertaken, the following outcomes have been identified as potential areas of mutual benefit and exchange:

- Development of joint work structures;
- New perspectives on problem-solving;
- Sharing of knowledge and experience;
- Similarity of challenges and solutions;
- New practical skills; and
- More integration and co-operation from other departments.

Whilst project leaders have obtained a number of skills and experience to empower them in their respective work environments, the partnership has also assisted in broadening their outlook in terms of social issues, culture and language. Solid relationships have been developed over time and whilst the Sida-supported partnership one day may be ending, these long-lasting relationships will continue well into the future.

The development co-operation model has also evolved over the years and with the associated reduction in direct material support from Sida to the structured programme of activities in Buffalo City, it has become necessary to find ways to ensure that the reciprocal benefits obtained from a municipal twinning relationship are sustained beyond the duration of the current municipal partnership activities in Buffalo City.

**PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES**

Some of the projects that have formed part of the Buffalo City-Gävle engagements have included:

- **Directly funded partnership under Sida (2001 - 2007)**

**SWECO / SIPU Consultancy support**

The assistance to Buffalo City in the form of consultancy support to development planning was started upon around the 15th of October 2001 to December 2002 by SWECO/SIPU. The following projects were incorporated in the SWECO / SIPU Consultancy support to Buffalo City:

- **Transportation and Traffic Safety**
  
  The activities have been based on an overall structure for the Buffalo City transport area as described in the IDP Analysis Phase. Buffalo City has accepted consultancy support from SWECO in the areas of traffic safety, Public Transport Plan, Transport Models for integrated transport planning, and developing a Traffic Accident Database. The objective was to improve capacity of municipal staff in the areas of transportation and traffic safety.

- **Environment**
  
  This component consisted of four sub-components viz.
  
  - An overall Environmental Management Programme;
  - Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan;
  - Sanitation Management Strategy;
  - Pollution Management Strategy

  The focus was on the preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP), which also embraces the Local Agenda 21 component. The Integrated Solid Waste Management plan (ISWMP) was completed during this period.

- **Local Agenda 21**
  
  A work programme for the introduction of Local Agenda 21 (LA21) in Buffalo City was drafted. This component was integrated into the Integrated Environmental Management Plan.

- **Spatial Planning**
  
  The support has been limited to the spatial representation of the sectoral input into the IDP as well as the initiating of a work programme for the spatial planning activities, which were proposed in the IDP as part of the Spatial Development Framework.

- **HIV / AIDS**
  
  The study on “HIV/AIDS Prevalence and Impact Study and Resource Mapping in Buffalo City” was completed during August 2003. The outcome of the study informed the development of the HIV/AIDS Strategy for Buffalo City and the identification of future projects and programmes.

- **Capacity Building Programme**
  
  A variety of capacity building activities took place in the thematic task teams and the departments ranging from on-the-job training and interaction with Swedish experts to regular courses, workshops, seminars and study tours.

**Special Interventions**

Sida supported Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality with projects that can be classified as Special Interventions insofar that they were at the time required to provide strategic information or input into the development and support of the IDP process in Buffalo City.

- **Orthophoto Mapping**
  
  The aim of the project was to obtain digital colour ortho-photography and vector contours for the entire Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. A total of 2064 photos were taken. The digital orthophoto images were provided to the GIS Division for distribution on the GIS intranet.

- **City Development Strategy**
  
  The formulation of a City Development Strategy has been seen as a broadening and deepening of the IDP. Sida provided assistance with the development of the terms of reference, the development of the adjudication template and the evaluation of all the tenders received. The Urban Advisor together with assistance of international consultant, Mr. Orjan Mohlund and UCF assisted with a study tour to Sweden.

- **Integration of KWT CUP with IDP**
  
  Many useful studies and plans were prepared within the Comprehensive Urban Planning (CUP) project in King William’s Town during 1999-2000. The aim of the project was to align and integrate these and recent sector plans and programmes, into more concrete projects and programmes to be implemented as part of the IDP.

- **Duncan Village Housing Design Competition**
  
  The overall objective of the housing competition is to show affordable high-density housing solutions for the urban poor.

**BUFFALO CITY - GÄVLE, SWEDEN**

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
**GIS Phase 2 and 3**
A GIS strategy was prepared as part of the bridging projects. The implementation of the strategy, GIS Phase 2, is ongoing with the support by Sida. Swedesurvey was contracted for the consultancy, which ended in June 2004. The GIS Phase 2 implementation is strongly linked to a digital ortho-photo mapping project.

**Community Support Centres**
The main objective of the project was to:
- Take government closer to the people thereby improving local democracy; and
- Improve interaction and customer relations with local communities through community support centres.

The project was carried out in close collaboration with the colleagues in Gävle and has contributed significantly to the mutual benefit of the partnership.

**Roads Management System**
A Road Management System encompasses all the activities involved in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, evaluation and rehabilitation of roads. Given the extent of the road network and the varying condition of roads, the various treatment methods available and the limited funding, the road management system assists greatly in the prioritisation of the roads for maintenance and the prudent use of available funds.

The project was carried out in close collaboration with the colleagues in Gävle and has contributed significantly to the mutual benefit of the partnership.

**Water Management System**
The overall objectives of the project are to improve information management for efficient decision making for Buffalo City, and secondly the acquisition and implementation of a water management system to assist the Water Division of Buffalo City towards achievement of its goals of elimination of service backlogs via a prioritized basic services backlogs programme, maintenance, refurbishment and upgrading of infrastructure, expansion of the service and the provision of free basic water services (i.e. 6kl/month), assisting with the improvement of the economy of the city where water services can play.

**Transportation and Traffic Safety**
Sida’s support and assistance included installation of a transport planning model, conducting a Travel Survey, preparing a Public Transport framework Plan, installation of a Traffic Accident Database, conducting a traffic safety audit, preparation of public transport plan, capacity building in public transport management, development of transport planning model (visum), preparation of traffic safety plan, development of integrated transport framework plan with emphasis on non motorized transport, pilot projects in traffic safety and non motorized transport and capacity building in all projects. Mentoring programmes with Swedish Public Transport authorities and study tours abroad are also areas where Sida has been very instrumental.

**Transportation and Traffic Safety Pilot – Frere Hospital**
Three traffic safety pilot projects were investigated as part of the SWECO/SIPU Consultancy. Preliminary designs and reports were completed for each project. The projects aimed at improved traffic safety to intersections serving the Frere Hospital, Clarendon and Selborne schools. The Frere Hospital project was selected for implementation.
• Taxi Ranks
  The main objective of the project was to address pedestrian movements, traffic safety, informal trading activities and environmental issues at the respective taxi ranks. The King William’s Town part of the project was a direct result of the planning activities under the CUP project.

• Land Management Policy
  The project aimed to produce a Land Management Policy for Buffalo City, which would stipulate measures that can be legally be implemented to prevent illegal invasion by preventing people from erecting informal structures or occupying land without permission from the rightful owner/s. The purpose of this project therefore was to clearly define the respective roles and responsibilities and to assign them accordingly. The project will also attempt to reconcile the relevant pieces of legislation, which when read closely, seem to be contradictory.

• Cadastral Data
  The objective of this project was to establish a complete and current cadastral dataset for Buffalo City – one of the cornerstones of the GIS Base Data.

• Housing Policy
  The Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality inherited a major backlog in the provision of housing and due to this a policy was necessary to guide housing provision. The Policy was envisaged to identify the need for people to be involved in their own development decisions and to try to encourage the People’s Housing Process in the development of housing for the poor.

• Fact Finding study on Housing Associations
  In the ongoing projects to formulate a Housing Policy it was realized that the knowledge of the operating Housing Associations in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality was not satisfactory enough to allow well-funded proposals on the future engagement of the organizations in the overall housing delivery. Therefore as a parallel activity, the need for a fact-finding study of the role-players within the Social Housing sector had been identified as one of the crucial tasks in the formulation of the Housing Policy.

• Implementation of Housing Competition in Duncan Village & Haven Hills
  The joint Housing Competition for Nelson Mandela Metro and BCMM attracted a good number of participants from South Africa as well as from Sweden. The competition for the design of the site in Duncan Village was won by a Swedish architect, Mr Pelle Wikstrom, as judged by a jury in June 2004. Sida’s involvement in the Duncan Village site however had been restricted to the design phases, as the likelihood of physical implementation before end of June 2007 was very limited.

• Nahoon point nature reserve
  The intention of this project was to secure all the natural and cultural history aspects of this area in a formalized manner by having it declared a nature reserve and to provide a safe leisure and learning environment for citizens, tourists and visitors. The pilot project has contributed to the protection of the reserve through fencing in the area and by building a walkway across the dunes so as to limit and control the human impact. Furthermore, a number of ranger guides were trained and employed to patrol the area and guide visitors.

• Nahoon estuary nature reserve project
  The pilot project has contributed to the protection of the area as well as to education and job creation possibilities through the construction of a boardwalk, information signs, and the construction of an educational environmental awareness centre.
• BCMM Municipal Open Space System (MOSS)
A major objective of the comprehensive Open Space System was to contribute towards the conservation of indigenous biodiversity as well as to incorporate important social and economic concerns.

• Sanitation Policy and Strategy
The aim of the project was to formulate a sanitation policy and to implement a pilot project in BCMM.

• Sanitation Pilot Project
Closely related to the formulation of a sanitation policy was the implementation of an alternative sanitation pilot project. The need to not only demonstrates the technical solutions to alternative sanitation but also to apply management systems and test operational issues in full scale.

• Public Safety Programme
The public safety programme aimed to enhance public safety for communities in Gävle and Buffalo City. An important focus of the programme was to improve cooperation between police, traffic police, disaster management, fire and rescue and ambulance services. Cooperation between the municipalities resulted in an exchange of knowledge that benefited both partners.

• HIV/AIDS - Employee Wellness Programme
Epicentre AIDS Risk Management Foundation conducted an Employee Wellness Programme (with emphasis on preventing and treating HIV/AIDS and caring for and supporting its victims). The main objective of the project was to develop, initiate, implement, monitor and evaluate an Employee Wellness Programme focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support for BCMMs councillors and employees. The other component of the support, Primary Health Care HIV/AIDS Package, included the construction and equipping of clinic(s) to make them suitable for voluntary counseling and testing. The Petros Gobane Clinic in Cambridge Township was extended with the assistance of Sida.

• Special Programmes
The intervention includes three projects. Two of them were related to the formulation of policies and strategies within the areas of Gender and Disabilities respectively. The third project dealt with more concrete and immediate activities within the Youth at Risk focus area including HIV/Aids.

• Youth at Risk
The main objective of the project was to undertake a study with the focus on Youth in Buffalo City. The result of the project was a resource document detailing the current situation in BCMM, the resources to address these issues and a tool to guide BCMM with regards allocation of resources and mainstreaming within the IDP. Interaction on youth in a tri-party cooperation between Buffalo City, Gävle and Leiden was investigated which added value to the special programmes activities.

• Gender
The main objective of the gender strategy and policy project was to ensure an environment of gender responsiveness within Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality on how to deal with gender matters and a long-term framework programme for implementation of the policy.

• Disabilities
The aim of the disability project was to develop a disable strategy which aimed to create awareness and educate Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality on challenges faced by people with disabilities.

BUFFALO CITY - GÄVLE, SWEDEN
PARTNERSHIP

SALA/IDA (2007-2009)

• Management & Co-ordination (Compulsory)
Management and coordination is a compulsory application in all ICLD projects. The Partnership Coordinators of both municipalities are responsible for partnership coordination, project monitoring and reporting to the JPSC and ICLD. They meet according to the project application to discuss and prepare for the ongoing activities and also plan for the future activities of the partnership programme. They are responsible for projects audits and contacts with ICLD.

• GIS - Geographic Information Systems
The project focussed on developing strategies for implementing an ArcGIS Server software solution and developing customized web-based spatial editing tools that are available to all users without the complexity associated with the traditional editing tools, in the respective municipalities.

• Youth
The purpose of the project was to identify areas of co-operation aimed at harnessing the youth initiatives being undertaken by Gävle, in order to guide BCMM with the development of sustainable programmes for the implementation of the BCMM Youth Development Strategy.
In addition to the Youth Advisory Centres housed in addition to this, the Centres provide users with training on life skills, career choices and abuse, poverty, teenage pregnancies and HIV infections by means of information, education, and training on life skills, career choices and entrepreneurial opportunities.

In addition to the Youth Advisory Centres housed as above, BCMM (in fulfilling its mandate of participatory democratic local governance), has a Buffalo City Youth Council who represent the 45 youth ward structures. The Youth Council have resourced youth desks in the Mdantsane and King Williams Town Centres. These youth desks enable the youth of BCM to interact with their elected youth council on issues relating to youth development and local government.

During reciprocal trainings between the BCMM and Gavle counterparts, many lessons have been learnt and knowledge shared with reference to the aforementioned initiatives and the City of Gavle - Helges Youth Centre as part of the community resource node.

- **Electricity Masterplan and Maintenance System**
  
  The aim of this project was to develop an Electricity Master Plan for BCMM.

- **Electricity Maintenance System**
  
  Maintenance of the electrical network is crucial to ensure the safe and continuous supply of electricity to consumers. The aim for this project was the implementation of a Maintenance Management System in BCM and to Develop Templates for inspection of the electrical equipments; and
  - Complete a detailed Asset Aging Register for maintenance.

- **Multi-Agency Incident Management**
  
  The purpose of the project was to exchange information and experience in the field of multi-agency incidents which included the planning for major events such as large sporting events, as well as planning and or co-ordination between the various emergency service disciplines in order that the emergency services could be better prepared for incidents such as air craft crashes and severe road traffic accidents.

- **Good Governance Public Participation**
  
  The project focused in the main on the public participation on how communities do or must engage with their Municipality. It dealt with the co-ordination and mobilization of stakeholders and communities to participate in the municipal developmental agenda. It also dealt with co-ordination of how various constituencies interface with municipal activities and the participation of inter sectoral forums and community structures in the affairs of the municipality. This project benefitted Gavle immensely as public participation in Gavle has declined. After the interactions with Buffalo City, Gavle Municipality has managed to establish structures similar to that of ward committees in their municipality. This helps Buffalo City’s interest lay in the planning process for housing delivery.

- **Infrastructure Asset Management**
  
  The objective of this project, a shared study, was to arrange for an exchange of knowledge and experiences of both municipalities in the area of infrastructure asset management, a review of the approach by the two municipalities, and recommendations to both regarding areas of improvement. In the past, significant contributions have been made by Swedish development aid to Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) in respect of the Geographic Information System (GIS) and other related systems and programmes. These systems and programmes that reflect the assets and services of the municipalities are able to assist Councillors, managers, auditors and citizens by providing vital information related to the control, monitoring and tracking of assets as well as the adequate provision of service delivery.

- **Emergency Services**
  
  This project involved the various disciplines that make up the emergency services that is, fire and rescue, police and ambulance services with participants being those personnel who are still performing duties at an operational level.

- **Management & Co-ordination (Compulsory)**
  
  Management and coordination is a compulsory aspect of all ICLD projects. The Partnership Coordinators of both municipalities are responsible for partnership coordination, project monitoring and reporting to the JPSIC and ICLD. They meet according to the project application to discuss and prepare for the ongoing activities and also plan for the future activities of the partnership programme. They are responsible for projects audits and contacts with ICLD.

- **Good Governance - Housing and Public Participation**
  
  Providing affordable, safe and comfortable housing is essential aspect of service delivery for local governments. The objective of the project was to therefore examine the trends in civic participation that are affecting both Buffalo City and Gavle communities and civil society, especially pertaining to the type of houses people want or need. By examining the trends one would be able to understand people’s needs and hence deliver houses according to these needs and within the grants or subsidies provided by government but more importantly find how people want to participate in matters relating to themselves. Buffalo City has benefitted from the rental housing programme of Gavle Kommun’s Gavlegardana, the municipalities Housing Company.

In February 2011 a new partnership agreement from 2011 to 2013 was signed between Gavle and Buffalo City for continued partnership. The new Framework (2011-2013) will focus on new opportunities that could be harnessed by both municipalities. 2012 will mark the 10 year anniversary of the partnership. A number of activities will be planned both in Sweden and in South Africa to commemorate this momentous event.
BUFFALO CITY - LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS
PARTNERSHIP
In 1993 the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) established the Local Authorities Platform South Africa, which after South Africa’s 1994 local elections helped to link Dutch and South African cities.

East London was chosen as a twin city for Leiden. Formal ties between the two cities were established in 1998, although informal contacts began in 1995 when VNG and the Habitat Forum Nederland chose East London as a partner for Leiden.

Mayor Lulamile Nazo of the then East London Transitional Council visited Leiden in September 1995 to initiate the municipal twinning partnership. The municipalities signed a Declaration of Intent in May 1996 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in August 1998.

Following the nationwide municipal reorganisation in South Africa in December 2000, Buffalo City was formed with the amalgamation of East London, King William’s Town, Bhisho and other urban and rural areas.

In January 2002 Buffalo City and Leiden agreed to continued partnership and Deputy Mayor Jan Laurier of Leiden and Mayor Sindisile Maclean of Buffalo City signed an Extended Memorandum of Understanding. The duration of the MOU was set at three years, with a provision to evaluate the agreement at the end of the period. In October 2005 the results were evaluated and Mayor Henri Lenferink and Mayor Sindisile Maclean agreed for continued partnership and signed the MOU for a period of five years until 2010.

A new MOU was signed in September 2010 and will end in 2015.

The partnership between Buffalo City and Leiden is based on a citywide approach to partnerships advocated by the Habitat Platform, which helped to initiate the East London Platform in 1998. During the early years the citywide approach involved contacts between representatives from welfare organisations, businesses, churches, police, schools, museums and hospitals. Housing Associations from the Hague region and Amsterdam were also involved in forming HAEL (Housing Association East London), not only to build houses, but to focus on building community spirit to promote the long-term welfare of East London neighbourhoods.

The general principles of a citywide approach aim to:

- Strengthen local government;
- Exchange expertise and support the reconstruction of South Africa by contacts between politicians, officials, companies, civil organisations and NGOs.
Within the SA and especially BCMM context, HIV/AIDS is viewed as a developmental issue for the SA local government agenda both as an employer and service provider. The project was and is aligned to the IDP and seeks to strengthen and broaden existing initiatives, through an integrated mainstreamed response by means of: firstly reducing the susceptibility of individuals and groups at risk of HIV infection i.e., biological factors (access to basic services); behavioral factors (gender inequality); and social factors (violence against women and children arising from an unsafe community environment). Secondly, the project seeks to reduce the vulnerability of these HIV infected and affected individuals from becoming more disadvantaged through the disease progression, by means of increasing their ability to access grants, support and services from the state, BCMM and other agencies.

The project was conceived in the belief that the South African Police Service (SAPS) can play a key role in reducing crime and ensuring safety in the community. The project seeks to adopt an integrated approach by means of an active Local Aids Council (LAC) and an updated Special Programmes Focal Areas database; establishment, induction and launch and BCMM; Youth, Gender, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities Forums and Local AIDS Council; a) The Community Development Worker (CDW) Toolkit has been developed and printed. The Toolkit will primarily serve as a resource tool for the CDWs but can be used by employees and the community too.

b) BCMM has either reviewed or developed strategies for HIV, Youth (including orphans and vulnerable children), Older Persons and Gender with the assistance of the partnership.

c) The Review of the BCMM Youth Development Strategy is now in Final Draft and will follow due processes towards adoption by BC Council. The Strategy will give attention to the growing orphan and vulnerable children (OVC) phenomena and guide BCMM on programmes to address this challenge. The project seeks to reduce the HIV infection and eliminate sex related crimes, thus ensuring a safer living environment for the community.

The City of Leiden and the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMMM) have a long-term partnership, also in the areas of youth development, community development, and social cohesion. The project will be formalized by means of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two municipalities. The project will also involve the SAPS and will firstly seek to reduce the barrier between law enforcers and youth at risk, promote community policing, reduce and prevent youth crime offences and uplift the quality of life for youth at risk. Secondly, youth will be engaged in healthy activities thereby decreasing substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and HIV infection.

The project will be a pilot project. The project will be formalized by means of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two municipalities. The project will also involve the SAPS and will firstly seek to reduce the barrier between law enforcers and youth at risk, promote community policing, reduce and prevent youth crime offences and uplift the quality of life for youth at risk. Secondly, youth will be engaged in healthy activities thereby decreasing substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and HIV infection.
**BUFFALO CITY - LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS PARTNERSHIP**

**LOGO SOUTH STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

The project was developed to determine floodlines and establish the hydraulic capacity of major and minor drainage systems of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality in order to develop a Stormwater Management System, as well as an accurate record of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality stormwater assets. The project also focuses on other areas that impact on the storm water system and this includes:

- By-Laws for the Storm water System
- Sanitation facilities and education
- Water Quality of the Imzonyana/Amalinda Stream

**Completed Activities for Sanitation:**

Existing ablution blocks in Duncan Village are in poor condition with most of them leaking from the cistern into the bowel. Generally, the plumbing is found to be poor with various fittings leaking or vandalised. The BCMM Water & Sanitation Department has implemented a Pilot Project for eleven Semi-Permanent Ablution Blocks in Duncan Village (Wards 6-10) to reinstate the situation in order to:

- Address water losses in the Duncan Village Suburb.
- Find a workable and sustainable solution to the communal sanitation needs of the residents of the Duncan Village Less-formal areas until they have been provided with permanent housing with in-house waterborne sanitation.
- Roll out the Pilot in the Duncan Village less-formal communities and extend the service to other similar communities in BCMM.

To date 26 New Ablution Blocks have been installed in Ward 5, Ward 6; Ward 7; Ward 8; Ward 9; Ward 10; Ward 11; and Ward 12 of Buffalo City.

**Completed Activities for Sanitation:**

- Training community gardeners to generate profit
- Creating Pathways linking the Nompumelelo school to the project
- Erecting the project area to improve visibility.

**Completed Activities for Sanitation:**

- Installing a Play Park
- Establishing a netball court
- Upgrading the access road to the project
- Electrifying the project area to improve safety and improve visibility.
- Water quality of the stream
- Installing a Play Park
- Creating Pathways linking the Nompumelelo school to the project
- Training community gardeners to generate profit from the garden.

**Completed Activities By-laws for Storm water:**

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality has a by-law in place with respect to storm water regulation with the by-law having been promulgated in the Government Gazette in May 2006. In addition an offence list with admission of guilt [fines] per offence has been drawn up and submitted to the Chief Magistrate, East London Magistrates Court for approval. As soon as this is approved by the Magistrates Court the offence list can be instituted. Peace Officer training was undertaken for 10 employees in the municipality in order to capacitate them to monitor and act on storm water issues.

**Completed Activities By-laws for Storm water:**

- By-Laws for the Storm water System
- Sanitation facilities and education
- Water Quality of the Imzonyana/Amalinda Stream

**Completed Activities Storm water:**

- Data collection of the storm water undertaken (WSU students and Welland College Students from Netherlands undertook the collection and plotting of storm water problems)
- Electronic Storm water data now available for better management of the storm water system in Buffalo City.

**Completed Activities Storm water:**

- Storm water Policy completed
- Data collection of the storm water undertaken (WSU students and Welland College Students from Netherlands undertook the collection and plotting of storm water problems)
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**IMZONYANA/AMALINDA STREAM FLOOD PLAIN PROJECT (Duncan Village)**

Through the BCMM-Leiden partnership the Imzonyana/Amalinda Flood plain project was initiated three years ago. The flood plain pilot included a completely new design with a park, a sports field, and community gardens. The aim of the project is rehabilitate the floodplain with a multitude of activities that has the ability to convert the area into an economically, socially and culturally attractive hub.

“A New Heart of Duncan Village”.

Through the BCMM-Leiden partnership the Imzonyana/Amalinda Flood plain project was initiated three years ago. This project changed various project leaders and teams which challenged the project over the years. The Department of Development Cooperation and Communication took over the project in August 2008 to ensure that the First Phase of the project which is in Ward 6 was completed. From August 2008 to June 2010 the following has been completed:

- Clean-up of Embankments
- Clearing of Bush etc on Embankments
- Widening of stream
- Reconstruction of Embankments clearing of the vegetation on the floodplain/Building of gabions to support embankments
- Setting up of community garden and fencing the garden
- Building of a footbridge across the stream
- Establishing a soccer field and fencing of soccer field
- Establishing a netball court
- Upgrading the access road to the project
- Electrifying the project area to improve safety and improve visibility.
- Water quality of the stream
- Installing a Play Park
- Creating Pathways linking the Nompumelelo school to the project
- Training community gardeners to generate profit from the garden.

**BUFFALO CITY - LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS PARTNERSHIP**

**/BUFFALO CITY - LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS PARTNERSHIP**
SOLID WASTE PROJECT

This project developed from the Stormwater Project. In August 2002 Buffalo City sustained heavy rainfalls, causing flooding that led to losses of property and lives. Dwellings were washed away and more than 300 inhabitants lost their homes and personal belongings. In Leiden, citizens started a relief action to support the homeless, which raised money and commitment.

The project had three main goals for 2009:

- Establishing of Cooperatives
- Building 27 Drop of points
- Developing a Communication programme

YOUTH BRIGADE (KEYS FOR KIDS)

Emanating from the Buffalo City-Leiden platform and as means of addressing challenges faced by youth in BCMM, including aspects of HIV/AIDS, a Dutch Youth Brigade project was initiated which has developed into the Keys For Kids Project. The project has been active for the past four years at the King Williams Town area and specifically at the King Williams Town Child and Youth Care Centre and executed 6 projects.

The project has afforded Dutch youth the opportunity to work side by side with the youth at the Centre, especially those in conflict with the law and convert ordinary youth residences into child and youth friendly milieus. The project has also interacted with the Isibindi Child Headed Programme run by the Centre.

BUFFALO CITY - LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS PARTNERSHIP

In an effort to plan for the 2010 Keys For Kids, the Project Coordinators undertook site visits to the Masizakhe Child, Youth Care Centre and the Glen Stella Campus (formerly House on the Rock) which is now under the management of the EL Child Youth Care Centre and KWT Child and youth care centre. The Keys for Kids 2010 programme on the upgrading of the Glen Stella Campus was undertaken in August 2010. The project assisted to structurally and aesthetically convert a number of dysfunctional adjoining buildings into a child unit.

The BCM (Directorate Executive Services) undertook to provide the Masizakhe Child and Youth Care Centre with playground equipment in order to provide a child friendly and safe playing area within the Centre.

SCHOOL TWINNING

This is an ongoing programme in which potential schools twinning partners are identified by Leiden and Buffalo City. The following schools / educational institutions in Buffalo City were identified to participate in (and are in various phases of), twinning arrangements with similar educational institutions in the Netherlands:

- Nompumelelo School (Duncan Village) – Morskring
- AW Barnes (Buffalo Flats) – Da Vinci
- Fanti Gaqa (Mdantsane) – Vlietland College
- Lovedale College (King Williams Town) – Bona Ventura College
- Buffalo City College - ROC - Leiden

In November 2010 a new agreement was signed with the City of Leiden from 2010 to 2015. Some of the new projects under the new agreement will include a sanitation project focusing on recycling, the Keys for Kids Youth Brigade programme and the Schools Twinning programme.
In 1997, Milwaukee County and King Williams Town, South Africa entered into a Sister Community relationship with the intent of forging friendship and greater understanding between the peoples of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and King Williams Town.

When the relationship was originally created, there was an exchange of visits between both partners however the partnership lay dormant until 2008 when a delegation was subsequently invited to Milwaukee to reestablish the partnership with Buffalo City. A Sister Cities Agreement was officially established and became effective at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the 29th January, 2008.

The Sister City Agreement was established for the purposes of:

- forging new friendships and greater understanding between the people of Milwaukee County and the people of Buffalo City, each sharing a common goal of peace, freedom and democracy and the commitment to preserving these ideals for all;
- promoting international goodwill and understanding by encouraging the exchange of culture and knowledge and the building of mutually beneficial economic alliances;
- creating new partnerships for the development of health programs, trade and business endeavors, literary, artistic and educational activities and scientific collaboration;
- Encouraging visits by citizens of both cities and official visits by government officials, civic leaders and representatives of business, academia and the church.

The Centre for International Health (CIH) plays an integral part of the partnership. CIH which was originally founded in 1985 by Milwaukee County Government, is a consortium of academic and health institutions, and medically oriented multi-national organizations including: The Medical College of Wisconsin, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Children’s Hospital, Froedtert Hospital, the Blood Center of Wisconsin, GE Healthcare and Milwaukee County.

Based upon the site visits, subject/area specific expressions of collaborative interest, and awareness by the respective parties of their local communities, organizational interests and resources, initially, four primary areas for collaboration/partnership were identified:

- Health Services and Health Systems Development and Exchanges
- Education/Academic Institution Exchanges and Collaborations
- Cultural Exchanges
- Sports Activities/Marketing
The current programmes with Milwaukee County include:

- The International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP) programme with USAid;
- The African Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme (AUPAP) with Sister Cities International;
- Extended agreement with Walter Sisulu University, Medical College of Wisconsin and Centre for International Health.

**International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP) programme**

With International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP) support and in partnership with the USAid, Centre for International Health, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Health Department, Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Social Development and Department of Health and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), BCMM has been coordinating the distribution of nutritional food aid emphasizing the development of in-country (local) capacity to reduce under-nutrition and its multiple health effects.

Four million meals were distributed to 20,000 beneficiaries to advance the food security and nutritional status of target beneficiaries which include malnourished children less than 5 years of age, HIV infected and affected households, poverty stricken neighborhoods, orphans, people with disabilities, the elderly and female and child-headed households. The success of the programme in Buffalo City has seen the municipality being considered for future aid programmes.

**Sister Cities African Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme**

In November 2009 Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality made joint application with Milwaukee County to the Sister Cities Africa Poverty Alleviation Program. The Sister Cities application which is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was approved in June 2010. The aim of the programme is to build long-term, sustainable bridges of cultural understanding and economic development worldwide.

The major goals of the partnership include:

- City-to-city technical assistance and community collaboration to address the areas of water, sanitation and health.
- Capacity Building for Africa Global Sister Cities Foundation (AGSCF).

Unlike other partnerships this program allows for funding to be allocated prior to the identification of the project. This gives the partners together with the relevant community to identify the project on which they would like to work.

Aspiranza Clinic in Buffalo Flats was identified as the facility that will be upgraded in Buffalo City for the AUPAP programme. The project is expected to be completed in December 2011.

**Walter Sisulu University and Medical College of Wisconsin**

Meaningful benefits are being derived from international partnerships and twinning agreements which is not only benefiting the municipality but the city as a whole. Through the partnership with Milwaukee County, the partnership of Walter Sisulu University (WSU) in Buffalo City with the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Centre for International Health has been realised. This partnership shows how local government can utilise International Relations to develop not only the municipality but the city as a whole. An Affiliation Agreement was signed 10 December 2010. This agreement will assist WSU develop the faculty and student skills in the area of health sciences. Mutual benefits will be gained through teaching, collaborative research, curriculum exchange, student and staff exchange and other educational, clinical and research program development activities. The future collaboration will improve the capacity of future doctors, nurses and other health practitioners in the city.

**OTHER**

Following the success of the agreement signed between WSU and the Medical College of Wisconsin, BCMM has also been working with the University Of Fort Hare (Nursing Sciences) to establish a partnership with Marquette University and the East London Hospital Complex to pursue international training for physicians and specialists.
BUFFALO CITY, AMATHOLE DISTRICT AND GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
PARTNERSHIP
The partnership between Glasgow, Amathole District Municipality (ADM) and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMMM) aims to promote tourism development and job creation through developmental and social programmes within the tourism sector, and related industries that impact on tourism. The key programme identified within this partnership is the planning and development of:

- Joint Marketing Bureau;
- Community benefit clauses and credit union programmes; and
- Lighting of key tourist attractions.

Glasgow City Council has accumulated considerable economic development expertise over the last thirty years from which Amathole District Municipality and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality will be able to benefit. In the mid 1970s Glasgow had reached its lowest ebb, with its heavy engineering and manufacturing bases in terminal decline. The population was also falling dramatically and the general environment within the city was characterised by large areas of waste ground, largely a legacy of the slum clearance programme of the 1960s and early 70s. The city’s reputation throughout the rest of the UK, was of an ugly, rundown, demoralised city with a reputation for violence and an unhealthy population.

Between 1975 and 1985, Glasgow began to concentrate on the process of regeneration, trying a variety of approaches and learning from its mistakes. In the mid 1980s, a local development company was established in the inner-city Govan area, which worked hard to support existing local companies to grow and to link the training of local people to local job opportunities. The success of this approach, creating a direct link between people, place and business has worked very well.

Glasgow now has a network of eight local development companies, based in the poorest parts of the city, as well as a wealth of sophisticated partnerships between the public, private and NGO sectors. The city is currently enjoying considerable economic prosperity and has a much improved physical environment. Its main challenge is now related to assisting the large numbers of people who are on long-term State Benefits back into sustainable employment.

Through the partnership it is intended that the ADM and BCMMM could learn from the expertise and experience as best practices from the Glasgow City Marketing Bureau and other Glasgow City Council initiatives including the introduction of Community Benefit clauses and credit union programmes, and Glasgow’s lighting strategy.

As part of exploratory and exchange activities a delegation from Glasgow visited BCMMM in March 2010. The aim of the visit was to identify key areas of collaboration. In October 2010 a joint delegation from BCMMM and ADM visit Glasgow. The aim of the working visit was to sign a new tripartite agreement and to work shadow at the Glasgow’s Joint Marketing Bureau, Credit unions, lighting department and at the Local Economic department for the community benefit clauses concepts.
Joint Marketing Bureau

The Joint Marketing Bureau project looked at the establishment of a Joint Marketing and Events Bureau for ADM and BCMMM which could improve brand positioning and tourism potential of the region. Glasgow has a lot of similarities to ADM and Buffalo City in particular. In October 2010 the programme was designed to give ADM and BCMMM Councillors and officials an opportunity to see and learn as to how the Marketing Bureau functions. Meetings were held with various key personnel of the Glasgow Marketing Bureau to discuss various topics which include amongst others the following:

• Overall development vision of the Glasgow City Council;
• Events and product marketing;
• Business Tourism;
• Glasgow branding and positioning;
• Glasgow’s use the Digital and Social Media to profile and promote the city;
• Major events hosted in the city and the benefits of such events; and
• Research and Monitoring tools and its importance for marketing.

Credit Unions

The credit union project was seen as a project that could benefit both ADM and BCMMM communities. The objectives of the credit unions in Glasgow was the:

• Promotion of thrift among its members by the accumulation of their savings
• Creation of sources of credit for the benefit of its members at fair and reasonable rate of interest
• Use and control members’ savings for their mutual benefit
• Training and educate members in the wise use of money and in the management of their financial affairs.

Donation of Books

Through the Tripartite partnership with ADM and Glasgow City Council, Buffalo City was donated a consignment of approximately 50 000 books from the Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) an anti-apartheid movement located in Glasgow, Scotland. Since 1995 ACTSA Scotland has appealed for donated books, to be sorted, packed and sent to the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa for distribution to schools and libraries in the Province. This is seen as a very practical expression of the twinning link between Scotland and the Eastern Cape.

Another organisation supporting this initiative is the Community HEART organisation which is headed by Denis Goldberg, a Rivonia trialist who had spent 22 years in prison for opposing apartheid. It is a small South Africa-oriented charity based in London. Community HEART assists by making arrangements for the paper-work and customs waivers relating to the shipping process. A partnership was developed with the Eastern Cape Department of Education to identify schools in desperate need of books. At least 100 schools in the province benefitted from the books that were handed over at a function for the university, schools and libraries that were the beneficiaries.

Community Benefit Clauses

The City of Glasgow has through its Community Benefit Policy embarked on tackling the high levels of unemployment that prevail among Glasgow residents. The policy is aimed at assisting unemployed people access quality sustainable employment and training opportunities. The city is focusing on the opportunities that arise from the significant physical developments in the city infrastructure both in the construction and end use phases. This was a new concept to both ADM and BCMMM. However, the aim of the project is to review both ADM and BCMMM’s Supply Chain and SMME (Small, Medium, Micro Enterprises) policies in order to make provision for these enterprises to be successful tenderers for public sector work through training and capacity building programmes as well as provision being made in the policies to accommodate these enterprises.

Lighting Strategy

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding, a lighting project was identified as collaboration between ADM, BCMMM, Glasgow and Light Links. The lighting strategy covers the buildings that have been lit up in Glasgow and how these can be adapted to Buffalo City. As part of the visit to Glasgow in October 2010 discussions were held on how Glasgow turnaround the city utilizing the lighting strategy. A evening a tour of the various projects was also undertaken showing the use of amazing colors to light up structures, buildings, cathedrals, monuments, Kelvingrove museum, statues, University, St. Andrew Square, Buchanan Street, the Weir, Bridges, social housing and even water towers to create attractions and improve safety.

As part of the pilot to the project, three projects were identified for possible future collaboration namely the East London City Hall, the Mdantsane Art Center and the Rock face at the entrance to the city and near the harbour.

The visit to Glasgow in October 2010 assisted the delegation especially the local economic department to understand with Pollock and NHS Credit Unions on how they were established, how membership was developed, and the operations of credit unions and their sustainability. This concept was similar to the stickel concept in South Africa however; the long term sustainability of this project is where the concept differed. As part of the implementation plan it was agreed that at least two credit unions will be established in Buffalo City and in the Amathole District which could be guided and assisted to be successful using the Glasgow model.
In 2007 the governments of South Africa and Italy undertook several official meetings in pursuit of formulating meaningful collaborations in the area of local government development. Subsequent to these interactions, the two governments agreed to undertake jointly a three-year programme aimed at strengthening decentralization and local development processes in South Africa.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 6 March 2009 between our Department of Provincial & Local Government and the Regional Government of Tuscany.

The “Support Programme to Decentralization and Local Development Policies in South Africa targeted only two Provinces (Eastern Cape and Gauteng) and two municipalities within them (Buffalo City Local Municipality, O.R. Tambo District Municipality, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan and Metsweding District Municipality). These choices were based on maintaining a balance between rural and urban as well as past experiences of these areas with regard to development co-operation programmes supported by the Italian Development Co-operation and exchanges with Italy.

In terms of implementing tangible projects in Buffalo City, Ward Based Planning Pilot Training and Hydroponics Enhancement have been the two projects earmarked for implementation.
ITALIAN PARTNERSHIP,
CITY OF NERETO

MULTICULTURAL MAN STATUE –
NERETO, ITALY

The Multicultural Man is a bronze statue created by Italian artist Francesco Perilli which depicts a faceless man in the middle of the earth who is trying to unite two meridians, while the other meridians are lifted by doves, the universal symbol of peace. The bronze man is himself three metres in height and has been designed to represent no particular cultural, ethnic or religious background.

There are currently four of the five Multicultural Man bronze sculptures which have been installed in significant locations in four continents of the world; namely:

• Toronto (Canada) in 1985;
• Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) in 1997;
• Changchun (China) in 2002; and
• East London – Buffalo City (South Africa) in 2006.

The sculpture, a major and popular tourist attraction in East London is located on the East London Esplanade. It is set off amongst other statues of historical significance at the Heroes Park Garden of Remembrance.

The statue was installed and unveiled on site by the former Premier of the Eastern Cape, Nosimo Balindlela and former Mayor of Buffalo City, Zintle Peter on 15 December 2006. The ceremony was attended amongst other high-profile figures by the Italian ambassador Mr Alessandro Cevese; Mayor of Nereto, Italy, Mr Sergio Moroni, and the Heroes Park Board of Trustees.

The statue became a symbol international concern given that the statue has been progressively vandalized. This has required the Development Cooperation and International Relations unit together with the Department of Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture, the local Italian community represented by Mrs Marina Marchetti, the Italian Consul, The East London Museum, Heroes Park Board representatives and BCM Architecture Department to intervene in order to restore the statue to its former glory.

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality was commended by the Italian community and the Italian Ambassador for taking steps to restore the monument.
FRANCISTOWN, BOTSWANA

The former Executive Mayor of Buffalo City, Mr Lulamile Nazo and the former Mayor of Francistown, Botswana, Mr Peter Jonga Ngoma on 19 October 2000 signed a twinning agreement for a period of 5 years (2000-2005).

The Executive Mayor, Councillor Zukisa Faku in her State of the City Address in 2010, requested the Department of Communication and Development Cooperation to revive the agreement with Francistown, Botswana in an attempt to further the International Framework of Buffalo City, which highlights the need for South to South cooperation. In addition, the revival of the partnership would also align to the South African Foreign Policy on developing the African Agenda. In October 2010, a delegation led by the Executive Mayor travelled to Francistown, to initiate discussions on reviving the agreement and take the agreement to the level of a partnership with concrete programmes for actioning. A reciprocal visit from Francistown is shortly expected.

SUPPORT TO SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSIES ABROAD

South African Embassy in Helsinki, Finland

The Department of Foreign Affairs and the South African Embassy in Helsinki, Finland in March 2010 invited Buffalo City’s Department of Development Cooperation and International Relations to facilitate the participation of Children and Young People in the 14th International Art Exhibition organized by the Art Centre for Children and Young People in Hyvinkää, in Finland. The theme of the exhibition was titled ‘My Home’.

In order to ensure Buffalo City’s children and young people had an opportunity to participate in the exhibition, the Department of Development Cooperation and International Relations worked with the Department of Education (DOE) to support the art programme. Approximately 6 schools, namely; Sakhikamva High School, Solomon Mahlangu High School, Uvike High School, Duncan Village Public School, Lujiza Primary School, A W Barnes Primary School and Nompumelelo Primary School showed interest in participating in the Art Exhibition. Approximately 70 artworks were received from the participating schools. Prior to dispatching the artworks to Helsinki, BCMM hosted the launch of the Art Exhibition in April 2010.

During the submission of the artworks it was noticed that all schools had little or no art equipment and materials to undertake the work and in order to ensure that this activity could continue at the schools, each of the learners and their schools were given art kits as a token of BCMM’s appreciation but also that the kits could assist the children develop their artistic talents further.

Global Partners Junior

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality supported the South African Embassy in New York’s call for the Global Partners Junior programme. Global partners Junior is a student internet exchange program that seeks to connect New York City School children with their peers around the world. It is a Non-profit organisation that connects the Mayor’s Office of the City of New York to global cities. Students communicate about topics of relevant to all cultures including society, history, environmental conservation and entrepreneurship. Students post and read messages on a secure internet forum, share media projects and research facts about their cities.

Buffalo City through the assistance of the Department of Education was able to submit a list of schools to the Embassy in New York who could participate in the programme.

This was seen as a unique program that fosters global awareness and develops practical technology skills for middle school youth and I believe children could really benefit from it.
activities relating to Wellington City could include:

- trade missions,
- partnerships for universities and schools,
- NGO partnerships,
- cultural exchanges,
- sports development initiatives,
- tourism opportunities and other possible areas of exchange.

Following the strategy development, Buffalo City together with Amathole District Municipalities Local Economic development agency, ASPIRE and Imvomvo Training hosted a group of Maori youth from New Zealand. This project was funded by the NZAid South African Fund for Exchange (SAFE). The group visited BCM from 4th to 25 September 2010. The entire event was captured on film and will be then aired on New Zealand television during the Rugby World Cup in 2011. The Maori youth were hosted by home hospitality in homes of parents from schools in Mdantsane, Buffalo Flats and East London. Schools that participated in the programme from Buffalo City included Sakhisizwe High School, Hoërskool Grens, John Bisseker High School, and Sandiswi High School. The visit was part of a cultural and social exchange between youth from Buffalo City and New Zealand.

The strategy was developed and submitted to Council in 2008. The strategy also encouraged an Operations Committee comprising of various stakeholders, namely Eastern Cape Province, Amathole District Municipality, Rotary clubs and other institutions who in their own right are able to establish relationships independently of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

It was proposed that as other roleplayers may want to pursue relationships with counterparts in New Zealand at their own time and pace, it was important for Buffalo City to investigate partnership possibilities with the City of Wellington, New Zealand. The establishment of concrete ties with the City of Wellington will assist Buffalo City create possibilities for broader cooperation which will provide links to all other roleplayers. Possible broader partnership activities relating to Wellington City could include:

5. FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Considering the South African agenda on development cooperation and international relations, it has become clear that BCM would still need to consolidate the African Agenda; therefore the partnership with an African Partner is essential. Partnership opportunities with other African countries could also be pursued after consultation with DIRCO.

South-south cooperation has also become important given most our partnerships are in the north.

Opportunities in south which includes South African cities are important for networking opportunities and sharing of knowledge and best practice with municipalities with similar challenges.

The BRIC countries, namely, Brazil, Russia, India and China have recently been recognized as the emerging economies of the future and South Africa recently became a member of this formidable alliance which is now termed BRICS.

An investigation should be lodged into cities that have potential to partner with Buffalo City from this alliance more especially, Brazil, China and India. With the similarities in social and economic challenges Brazil and India present huge opportunities for capacity building and skills programmes. India also form part of the Commonwealth which also provides opportunities for skills transfer and resource mobilization from other donors namely, the Commonwealth Local Government Fund.

As Buffalo City’s approach to a city-wide approach to partnerships becomes a reality, it has become more and more necessary to also partner and formalize agreements with other government departments, municipalities, institutions of higher learning, health institutions, security institutions, governmental agencies, NGO’s and other organisations so that partnerships are able to benefit the city as a whole.
6. CONCLUSION

Development Cooperation and International relations from Buffalo City’s perspective is a highly strategic intervention that helps BCMM identify gaps that donors help us to bridge through provision of financial resources, capacity building and skills assistance. Therefore, Development Cooperation and International relations is not just international travel without any concrete benefits for the municipality or its community, nor international conferences which cannot fund or implement sustainable initiatives in the city and more importantly, it is not tourism. It is a long-term benefit with tangible results for the municipality or the city as a whole. As we embrace our new found metropolitan status, it will be important to keep this in mind as we embark on this new journey.

ACRONYMS

ADM Amathole District Municipality  
AGSCF African Global Sister Cities Foundation  
ASPIRE Amathole Economic Development Agency  
AU African Union  
AURAP African Urban Poverty Alleviation Program  
BRICS Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa  
BCMM Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality  
CIh Centre for International Health  
CLGF Commonwealth Local Government Fund  
CRM Citizen Relationship Management  
CUP Comprehensive Urban Planning  
DIRCO Department of International Relations and Cooperation  
DOE Department of Education  
GIS Geographic Information Systems  
HMEL Housing Association of East London  
IBSA India, Brazil and South Africa  
IFRP International Food Relief Programme  
IMF International Monetary Fund  
KWT King William’s Town  
Moss Municipal Open Space System  
MOU Memorandum of Understanding  
NGO Non-governmental Organisation  
NAM Non-Aligned Movement  
NAASP New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership  
NEPAD The New Partnership for Africa’s Development  
NZAid New Zealand Aid  
SACU South African Customs Union  
SADC Southern African Development Community  
SAFE South African Fund for Exchange  
SALGA South African Local Government Association  
SALADA Swedish Association of Local Authorities International Development Agency  
SAPS South African Police Services  
SIDA Swedish International Development Agency  
UN United Nations  
USA United States of America  
USAid United States Agency for International Development  
VNG Association of Netherlands Municipalities  
VSA Volunteer Services Abroad  
WSU Walter Sisulu University
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