

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The Liesbeek Life Plan is a recently formed collaborative effort between the Friends Of the Liesbeek and UCT's Urban Water Management research unit to contribute to plans and designs for restoring and offering better support to social and ecological life of the Liesbeek River.

Aims

The primary aim is to provide a framework plan which will guide the building of ecological and social resilience in the Liesbeek River catchment while providing an "insurance policy" in order to safeguard and enhance the Liesbeek. This framework will also aim to address the relationship between ecology and human behavior by enhancing amenity and social value of the river.

A secondary aim is to work together in a community of practice where we explore new ways of thinking from the knowledge and experiences of participants. This community of practice will include the knowledge and resources from various academic and professional bodies as well as from first-hand knowledge with community groups.

Objectives

The Liesbeek Life Plan will use the concept of "Landscape Urbanism" as a means to allow social and ecological interactions to be translated into design. In this manner it will consider the urban, natural and social processes within the catchment and will aim to align them through design interventions at a framework level with associated principles and guidelines. These interventions will then be designed further as applicable at a site specific level so that plans and designs can be implemented in a practical manner. Emphasis will be placed on design which guides interventions in an appropriate and holistic manner rather than a prescriptive set of constraints.

Reference will also be made to precedent examples elsewhere which illustrate the manner in which the "Urban River Syndrome" is being managed in other parts of the world.

Outcomes

The final outcome of the Liesbeek Life Plan is a catchment framework plan which will include present and future design interventions; a set of management, aesthetic and planning guidelines; conceptual precinct plan designs; and a community planning framework for practical implementation.

These outcomes will be presented in a visual and written manner which will clearly communicate the proposals and interventions to the public and private sectors.