



GCR0 annual report

10/11



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GCRO has fulfilled its mandate to build the knowledge base required to enable South Africa's economic heartland to become a region that is competitive, spatially integrated, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

Foreword by Professor Adam Habib, Chairperson

Prof Habib, Deputy Vice-Chancellor:
Research, Innovation & Advancement,
University of Johannesburg



2010/11 represents the second full operating year of the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) and its reputation for delivering high quality research that meets the needs of its funding partners and stakeholders has grown considerably. Having now established the institution and its systems the GCRO's team focussed on delivering on a number of key projects set out in the 2010/11 work plan.

A few of the highlights of completed projects include:

- The first *State of the Gauteng City-Region Review* – a rich, visually powerful multi-media output that draws on all the data collated by the GCRO to provide an overview of the key dynamics and trends in the Gauteng City-Region (GCR);
- The launch in September 2010 of an interactive GIS website that provides both government and the public access to various spatial themes to assist users to gain a better understanding of the GCR;
- A large nation-wide study into civil society responses to xenophobia run in conjunction with multiple academic and other partners;
- Research into municipal billing systems as part of a team working for the Presidency to look at blockages in service delivery, including ethnographic work in the billing departments of Johannesburg and eThekweni.



As part of the medium to long-term applied research programme, work on a number of multi-year projects was scaled up in 2010/11. A key example is the OECD Territorial Review of the Gauteng City-Region, one of GCRO's largest projects. Working together with the Gauteng Planning Commission, GCRO has also played a vital role in the process of compiling the comprehensive background report, used as the basis of the review, and arranging and hosting the second OECD mission to Gauteng in July 2010.

Not only did the GCRO team undertake the 2010/11 project work plan but also provided ad hoc support to government – a role, as a publicly-funded entity, it is expected to deliver on. The initial work by GCRO on the Developmental Green Economy strategy completed for The Gauteng Department of Economic Development in 2009/10 was expanded at the request of the Department to become a Green Strategic Programme for the province, which will be completed in 2011/12. Following an approach by the GPC in the latter part of 2010, GCRO provided the GPC with an innovative methodology for identifying priority wards based on a range of indicators. The project relied heavily on GIS mapping and analysis and use of the latest available data to produce 18 indicators, a composite map identifying the 50 priority wards, and an interactive spread sheet

that allows users to change weighting of individual indicators and recalculate the priority wards. This highlights GCRO's commitment to utilise the latest data it has collated (with the Census 2001 data that most of government relies on now 10 years out of date) to produce innovative interactive products to be made available and used by all spheres of government.

At the same time, GCRO has continued to produce accredited academic publications in 2010/11 including a special edition of *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies*, which focused on xenophobia and civil society. The year also saw the publication of two GCRO Occasional papers and the establishment of the *Provocation* series, designed to raise GCRO's profile by introducing challenging issues for public debate. The first *Provocation* was authored by Terence McCarthy on the decanting of acid mine water in the GCR.

GCRO has fulfilled its mandate to build the knowledge base required by government, business, labour, civil society and citizens for enabling South Africa's economic heartland to become a region that is competitive, spatially integrated, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. I am certain it will continue to play this role for many years to come.



01



Introduction and overview

This report covers the second full operating year of the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO), and also the end of the first three-year cycle of support from the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) (this began in 2008/09, but GCRO was functional for only a quarter of that year).

The GCRO was publicly launched on 11 September 2008. A partnership between the GPG, local government in Gauteng, the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits), GCRO is an innovative response to the socio-economic, cultural, governance, political, growth and other challenges related to the cluster of cities that makes up the Gauteng City-Region (GCR), the economic engine of South and southern Africa.

The GCRO is an independent, university-based research centre, tasked with benchmarking the GCR's development; mobilising intellectual capital from both universities to help consider key policy issues; providing accurate, reliable data that talk to the spatial area that is the GCR (most datasets fall within administrative boundaries, which the GCR does not); and making this accessible to government officials, citizens and others who need to benefit from the work of the GCRO, while also being good academic citizens and feeding data and resources back into teaching, publishing and so on.

This is not an easy position to occupy – to do justice to the academy's demand for intellectual independence and methodological rigour (and publication!) and government's demand for accessible, accurate, policy-relevant, high quality data and recommendations, while also seeking to help citizens better understand the space they occupy. Nonetheless, in the recently tabled (March 2011) provincial budget estimates, the member of the executive council (MEC) for Finance, Hon. Mandla Nkomfe, wrote:

“

The establishment of the GCRO, which works in partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand [and University of Johannesburg], is still in place and a budget allocation has been made under Transfers and Subsidies to the University to fund the collaborative activities as per agreement entered into. The partnership is essential and promotes cooperation between the provincial government, municipalities and academic institutions; it carries out research that assists the Province with long-term strategic planning related to economic, social and other areas of development. (Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2011, Gauteng Department of Finance)

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▲
GCRO Board: Mr Sibusiso Xaba, Prof Helen Laburn, Prof Rob Moore, Prof Adam Habib, Ms Annette Griessel, Prof Fiona Tregenna.
Insert: Mr Daniel Mashitisho

Governance

The GCRO is overseen by a Board, made up of two representatives from the University of Johannesburg – Prof Adam Habib, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Advancement and GCRO deputy-chair, and Prof Fiona Tregenna from the economics department; two representatives of the University of the Witwatersrand, Prof Belinda Bozzoli, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Chair of the GCRO Board, and Prof Rob Moore, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Advancement and Partnerships. Prof Bozzoli retired as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research in late 2010, and in March 2011 GCRO welcomed Prof Helen Laburn, the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, onto our Board. The GCRO remains grateful to Prof Bozzoli for all her hard work and support in setting and later co-chairing our Observatory. The Head of the Gauteng Planning Commission, Mr Sibusiso Xaba, sits on the Board alongside Ms Annette Griessel, Deputy Director-General: Policy and Governance from the Office of the Premier, Gauteng Provincial Government, and Mr Dan Mashitisho, Municipal Manager: Mogale City, representing local government in Gauteng.

While Wits and UJ serve as the GCRO's anchor institutions, our mission involves the harnessing of a range of academic and intellectual resources in Gauteng. A key mechanism in this regard is the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), made up of senior academics and public intellectuals from a range of academic and other institutions. The RAC is not a decision-making structure, but a sounding board and quality assurance mechanism for GCRO, and is now a fully functioning part of the GCRO's work.

The GCRO Board is the most important governance structure. The Board meets at least thrice yearly. It receives, considers and debates an annual workplan and associated budget, which sets out the work of the Observatory for each 12 month-period. Previously, we had no overall





three-yearly Strategic Framework from which Annual Workplans could be derived, but the end of the year under review will see GCRO submitting a detailed three-year Framework, budget and timeline to the Board. All these documents are available on the GCRO website. The Board also assesses the financial and progress reports submitted by the Executive Director and the reports from the independent auditors appointed to conduct an annual financial audit. The audited reports for 2010/11 are attached, and mark our third successive clean, unqualified audit.

In addition, GCRO was visited for the second time by the Oversight Committee on the Premier's Office and Legislature (OCPOL) in late 2010, as part of the Committee's oversight role in relation to the work of the Office of the Premier. Furthermore, the Executive Director presented progress reports to the senior management structures of both partner universities. Remaining fully accountable to three partner institutions remains a priority for GCRO.

GCRO is a publicly funded unit and we regard ourselves as answerable to the anchor universities, governments (local and provincial) and to the citizens of the GCR. The work we do with our grant is open to all, and shared free of charge with anyone who wants it. For example, the raw data from the 'Quality of Life' survey has already been given to a range of individuals and research agencies. The only condition is that they, in turn, use it for teaching or research and not for private profit. Wherever possible, when we purchase datasets, we try to ensure that the licence extends to students and academics at both our partner universities, so that the data can be used for both teaching and research/publication purposes. In essence, GCRO is strongly committed to making data as widely available as possible.

Legal status

The legal status of the GCRO is based on an agreement signed by the respective parties at the GCRO launch in 2008 in line with the GCRO Founding Document and legislation relating to the management of public finances. In line with the agreement, the University of the Witwatersrand continues to host the offices and funds of the GCRO and takes responsibility for its financial administration. During 2010/11, the Executive Director was charged with finalising a Constitution for GCRO, which was tabled at the Board meeting that coincided with the end of this reporting period.

Staff and structure

The organisation is led by Prof David Everatt, Executive Director and has a Research Director, Mr Graeme Gotz; a Finance and Administrative Manager, Ms Adele Underhay; and a Senior Systems Analyst, Mr Chris Wray. Senior Researchers Ms Annsilla Nyar, Ms Maryna Storie (who joined in the period under review) and Mr Sizwe Phakathi are supported by Ms Sammy Masehe, Receptionist and Junior Administrator, who also manages our continually growing Resource Centre. (While Sammy was on maternity leave, Ms Nicole Daniels filled her position in a temporary capacity.) Sadly, during the period under review, Sizwe left GCRO for the private sector, having just completed his Oxford doctorate: we wish him well in his future career.

Two part-time staff – Ms Ferrial Adam and Ms Alexis Schaffler – joined GCRO in order to work on our sustainability projects, but during 2011/12 – once the Board has considered the Strategic Framework – we hope to secure at least two more Senior Researchers, as well as bolstering our capacity at Researcher level. While the GCRO is committed to the achievement of employment equity in its recruitment and staffing, this has proven to be a challenge the organisation will continue to address.



GCRO Staff: Ms Ferrial Adam, part-time Senior Researcher, Ms Maryna Storie, Senior Researcher, Prof David Everatt, Executive Director, Ms Annsilla Nyar, Senior Researcher, Mr Chris Wray, Senior Systems Analyst, Ms Alexis Schaffler, Researcher, Mr Graeme Gotz, Research Director, Ms Adele Underhay, Financial and Administrative Manager, Ms Sammy Masehe, Receptionist and Junior Administrator.

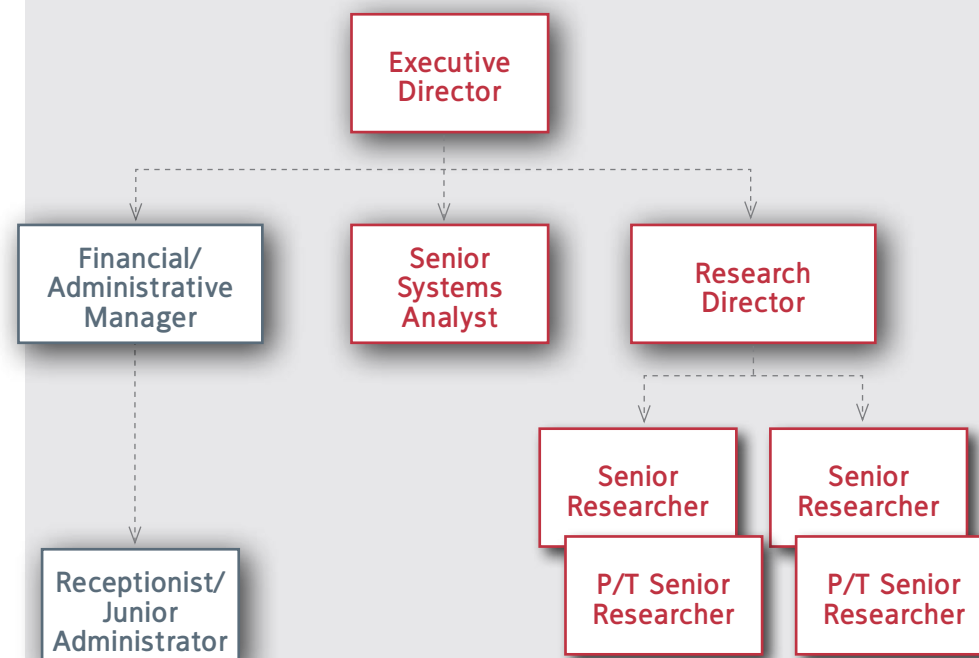
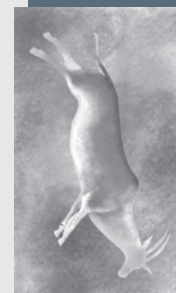


Figure 1: GCRO Organogram 2010/11

GCRO staff development 2010/11

The GCRO Board and Executive Director are committed to staff development and skills enhancement, not only in terms of academic qualifications and learning but also with regards to personal growth. To this end they support the ideas and ideals of all GCRO staff members and the two academic partners provide incentives in the form of fee subsidies to enable staff to attain these goals.

Members of staff availed themselves of various opportunities during the 2010/11 year. We also contributed to development via teaching and supervision.





During the 2010/11 financial year the following staff activities occurred:

- Annsilla Nyar (Senior Researcher) continued to work with Professor Steven Friedman at UJ on understanding the quality of democracy in the Gauteng city-region, using GCRO data;
- Maryna Storie (Senior Researcher) registered for a PhD at Wits in February 2011 at the School of Architecture and Planning, and attended lectures on academic research methods and housing theory and concepts;
- Alexis Schaffler (Researcher) was awarded a Masters *cum laude* from the Sustainability Institute at the University of Stellenbosch, entitled: “Enhancing resilience between people and nature in urban landscapes”;
- Adele Underhay attended Oracle training to enhance her capacity as financial manager;
- Chris Wray (Senior Systems Analyst) submitted his MSc degree in Engineering at Wits and should graduate later in 2011. The dissertation is entitled: “A Web 2.0 GIS G-Government website for the Gauteng City-Region”. Chris also attended two courses: ‘Putting Statistics into Practice’ (SPSS), and ‘What’s new in ArcGIS 10’?

Financial status

After a competitive tender, the GCRO Board agreed to the appointment of Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) as the GCRO auditor – they also conduct the Wits audit, and since GCRO’s finances are handled by Wits we are effectively double-audited, and our auditors also understand the Wits financial systems. The brief was that GCRO had to be compliant with both the university standards of financial probity and the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

We are proud to report that we have received unqualified audits since inception. The financial statements are appended at the end of this report, and can be downloaded from our website.



02



2010/11: a big year for GCRO

The year 2010/11 was critical in the transformation of the GCRO from a small, nascent organisation – founded in late 2008, staffed by mid-2009 – into a fully going Observatory, albeit still with a small staff complement. The 2010/11 year yielded both major achievements as well as highlighting the challenges still facing the Observatory. Before we focus on the challenges we face and how we plan to meet them, it is worth pausing to reflect on what the GCRO has achieved in the period under review.

GCRO has established links internationally, with the national Urban Observatory in Brazil, the Indian Institute for Human settlements, the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD), the Observatory for Innovation and Competitiveness at the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of São Paulo, the new Institute for Advanced Urban Studies at MIT, and others. We have an ongoing dialogue with Prof Robin Cohen from Oxford and his colleagues at the Max Planck Institute, who are studying ‘super diversity’. We have also met with representatives from the Institute of Developing Economies (Japan), University of Twente (Netherlands), the University of Sevilla, the International University of Andalusia and the Pablo Olivida University, amongst others. In the sustainability area, GCRO works closely with the Sustainability Institute and African Centre for Cities, and we funded a multi-country workshop in Stellenbosch that brought together global experts from the United Kingdom, Brazil, China, India, Thailand and elsewhere. Slowly but steadily, the GCRO is extending its reach and profile.

Domestically, we work closely with the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town, and have helped provincial governments from KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo in their deliberations on possibly establishing Observatories along similar lines to GCRO. We have met, and in many cases begun working with (see below), a host of provincial departments in Gauteng, including those focusing on transport, sport, economic development, agricultural and rural development, and others. We met with the Management Authority of the Cradle of Humankind, and have begun exploring project-based work with Dr Lulu Gwagwa and the Helen Suzman Foundation on small towns on the periphery of the GCR. We also work with government agencies such as the Gauteng Economic Development Agency (GEDA), with whom we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), and others. Closer to home, GCRO staff have met with various



UJ and Wits academics to strengthen linkages across the two partner universities. We have also met with various national departments.

By 2011 GCRO had garnered praise from the Premier (at the launch of our 'Quality of Life' survey results), the MEC for Finance and others, for executing major projects ranging from the OECD Territorial Review (ending late-2011) to the 2009/10 'Quality of Life' survey through fast turn-around policy interventions such as the 'Gauteng Economic Growth and Employment Strategy' (GEGDS) and the provincial 'Green Economy Strategy', as well as contributing to academic publications. When the 'Quality of Life' survey results were launched by Premier Mokonyane, she said:

“

... the Observatory is serving its purpose and being brutally honest with us so that meaningful interventions could be made to improve the lot of our people. We are grateful that the academics at both Wits and UJ have compiled this important document. While its relevance may not be immediately felt; future generations are sure to look at the results of the survey and thanks the GCRO for its honesty.

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The GPG set up the GCRO to assist provincial and local governments in Gauteng with data, applied research and objective analysis of key trends that are shaping the region of towns and cities in and around Gauteng, and benchmarking them globally. The idea was that this information and analysis would inform key policies and strategies in order to strengthen governance and development. In turn, this would help build a competitive, integrated, sustainable and inclusive GCR.

In line with this mandate, the following key activities formed the core of our work in 2010/11 (see below for detail):

- Designing and launching an interactive geographical information system (GIS) web-portal, and training government officials in its use;
- Writing and presenting a 'Developmental Green Economy Strategy for Gauteng' for the Gauteng Department of Economic Development;
- This was followed by a more detailed request from the Department, for a 'Green Strategy for Gauteng';
- Constructing an interactive weighting matrix for all 508 new wards (i.e. post-2010 ward demarcation) for the Gauteng Planning Commission;
- A multi-year tracer study of informal traders and the impact (if any) on their economic situation resulting from the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. We also provided financial support to a similar study looking at the long-term impact on those living nearby the newly developed stadia, being conducted by Margot Rubin and Aly Karam at the Wits School of Architecture and Planning;
- Sizwe Phakathi worked with Roland Hunter on a Service Delivery Project for the Presidency, looking at municipal billings systems and front-line practices in Johannesburg and Ethekewini;
- Understanding transformation and change in the Gauteng Higher Education Sector, both in terms of unwinding apartheid legacies of unequal access to skills and the labour market, and ensuring a competitive economy for the future;

- Analysing the state and prospects for realising non-racialism in the GCR in partnership with the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation;
- Together with multiple academic and other partners, GCRO ran a large nation-wide study into civil society responses to xenophobia, working with partners from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), University of the Western Cape (UWC) and UJ;
- A three-book project focusing on spatial change in the GCR with Prof Philip Harrison.

At the same time, detailed below, we were writing, publishing, presenting and seeking to assist different departments and agencies from different spheres in whatever way we could. Inevitably, such a high workload and output level creates and/or highlights challenges facing GCRO.

Challenges

The listing of our project load and outputs indicate a key challenge, namely balancing academic work – our own projects – with responding to the needs of government. In 2010/11, four of the projects cited above were not generated by GCRO, but activated in response to external requests. This was double the number from the previous year, and the steady increase seems set to continue, until and unless GCRO develops very clear guidelines on what we can and cannot do, and that this is respected. It is difficult for a new organisation, trying to develop a good reputation, funded by GPG, to say ‘no’ to any GPG department or agency, but that time has arrived. Projects that fit within our mandate and Strategic Framework will be considered, but others will need GCRO to play our ‘portal’ role and source appropriate academic expertise to help as required.

Balancing short-, medium- and long-term projects

The above in turn speaks to a related challenge, namely the need to balance short-, medium- and long-term projects, and how to prioritise and allocate resources appropriately. It is difficult for GCRO to say ‘no’ to an MEC or Head of Department (HoD), but each unplanned project we take on has a domino effect on the projects planned for that year (whatever their planned duration). We need to be flexible and responsive – and need to allocate resources to meeting the unforeseen needs of local and provincial government – but we also need to ensure that the only work we take on aligns with our core focus.

Capacity

Another related challenge is our need to attract and retain appropriate capacity. As a brand new institution, this was always going to be difficult in our initial stages, and we were fortunate to attract the staff we have. But it is clear that we need more staff, of a high calibre, with experience in both research and the work of government. As an academic institution, we are competing against government, the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), all of whom are paying higher salaries for high quality candidates. Our task is nonetheless to build GCRO’s reputation to the point where we can overcome some of the structural challenges of our location.

New methods

We also need to change – or add to – our way of working. To this end we are developing more interactive methods, including discussion forums, seminars and so on, where GCRO can marshal existing academic (and other) expertise and deploy it in accessible form for the benefit of government. Our *Provocations* series does the same thing in printed form (see below). These are in addition to (and not in place of) our core business, which is high quality applied research.



Partnerships and relationships

We will seek to expand our partnerships and relationships with other research agencies, which already include *inter alia* the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town (UCT), the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA), the Helen Suzman Foundation, Enerkey, and so on. We are doing the same globally. We have been slow in working with the private sector. Although GCRO kicked off with a Colloquium on the global financial crisis that saw high profile private sector speakers join the MEC for Finance and others in debating what it meant for the GCR, we have fallen behind in this area – and thus have failed to adequately reflect the ‘triple helix’ in action. This is less a project than an area of conscious networking and relationship building, and one where we have to perform better in the next cycle.

Defining and conceptualising the GCR

It may seem odd that after slightly more than two years, the GCRO is still talking about what constitutes the GCR. This is, however, neither a simple matter of drawing lines on a map, nor a political decision. The OECD Territorial Review is proving key in helping us develop robust measures to determine which parts of Gauteng form the core of the GCR, and how strong the linkages are with the peripheral towns and economic hubs. But there are questions pertaining to our history that also have to be considered – such as how the GCR relates to the former homelands on the northern borders of Gauteng Province, where we have dense settlements with limited economic opportunities. There are also questions about how we ‘decide’ which outliers are now or will be an integral part of the GCR, such as Rustenburg, one of the fastest-growing urban centres in the country. This is an on-going intellectual challenge, because urban areas grow, decline, morph and change over time, in response to local and global forces, and flexibility is key.

Data

It should be clear that urban observatories need time to build up time-series data before they can illuminate longer-term trends occurring in the space they oversee. This is true of GCRO as well, and (given that two points do not make a trend) it will only be by the time of our third ‘Quality of Life’ survey that we will have built up sufficient comparable data to make confident predictions about trends. But while that is true of that dataset, GCRO will be building up time-series data from other sources, including private sector geo-coded datasets, Statistics South Africa datasets, and so on. Much, if not all, of this will find its way into either the proposed ‘governance barometer’ or the interactive GIS website. Buying or generating accurate primary data is of fundamental importance to GCRO, given that we are above all an agency that specialises in applied research relevant to our core areas of focus.

Quality control

The GCRO was reviewed by the Office of the Premier in late 2010, and the RAC also plays an oversight role. The GCRO’s founding Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) states that after five years the activities and outputs of the GCRO will be subjected to a comprehensive international review. This should occur in 2013. In addition, all academic contributions are peer-reviewed, and most projects have built into them a ‘reference group’ or ‘steering committee’ made up of academic or sectoral experts whose only role is that of quality control. All outputs are checked and edited usually by both Research Director and Executive Director, and always by one if not both. But, bluntly put, there can never be sufficient quality control, and we continue to work on this issue.

Academic citizenship

Although GCRO staff do not have to teach, we are expected to be good academic citizens, which means supervising Masters and Doctoral level students, presenting, writing, publishing, taking part in university life (at two universities), and all the other activities associated with being good academic citizens. We regard this as a privilege and a pleasure – but as with any academic, the demands of publishing are considerable and impinge directly on our time. Publishing in peer-reviewed journals is vital if government is to have confidence that our outputs are accepted by international peers; but we have to balance this against the other demands on our time.





The GCRO and the development challenge

GCRO is in place to take forward ‘the development agenda’ – which is an unavoidably vague notion deriving as it does from multiple sources including political sources, academic literature, development praxis and so on. The GPG adopted the GCR perspective, and remains committed to building an integrated and globally competitive city-region where the economic activities of different parts of the province and broader contiguous area complement each other in consolidating Gauteng as an economic hub of Africa, and an internationally recognised global city-region. Running parallel are the challenges facing all of South Africa: inequality, poverty, exclusion, high unemployment, stressed social fabric, and more.

In other words, the challenge is about understanding the developmental needs of Gauteng from a city-region perspective, and harnessing intellectual resources to help take forward the GCR itself. The GCR was adopted as a new way of approaching development challenges in Gauteng, building a common vision – from which would flow agreed interventions - to improve people’s quality of life in the context of global and national realities. The focus, in other words, is less on administrative boundaries and more on functional geography, social and economic linkages.

This in turn requires that there is less competition between institutions and more collaboration – as summarised by the axiom that we should ‘co-operate internally to compete better externally/globally’. In trying to forge a new way of working and operating, the GCR perspective is of considerable significance, given the challenges of rising above silo-based and sphere-specific planning and implementation that has stayed in place since 1994.

To be realised in practice – or, in other words, if the GCR is to make a real impact on the lives of those who live in it – we need to help understand ways of accelerating the pace of change, help build state and civil society capacity to drive transformation, help identify where and how to improve integration and co-ordination across government, and how to make Gauteng more ‘balanced’ both socially and spatially, so as to eradicate the inequalities that make us the most unequal city-region on the planet (as stated in the OECD draft Territorial Review). The GCRO is just one small actor in the massive fight to realise these ambitious goals in practice – but this is our summary understanding of ‘the developmental agenda’ which informs our work.

This can be elaborated from many sources – the annual state of the nation speeches, the annual state of the province speeches, and so on. Another source might be the GPG provincial outcomes:

- Quality basic education;
- Long and healthy life for all South Africans;
- All people in South Africa are and feel safe;
- Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all;
- Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life;
- Responsive, accountable, efficient and effective local government;
- Decent employment through inclusive economic growth; and
- Efficient, effective and development oriented public service, and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship.

While these sharpen our immediate focus, we must also look carefully to Vision 2055, itself a critical aspect of Gauteng's long-range planning, as informing and being informed by the work of GCRO. Already the MEC for Finance has written:

“

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Territorial Review, initiated in the 2010/11 financial year, will be completed. It will provide an overview of the Gauteng City Region to inform planning and implementation. Using the OECD methodology will ensure comparability with other territories and allow for appropriate benchmarks to be established. (Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2011, Gauteng Department of Finance)

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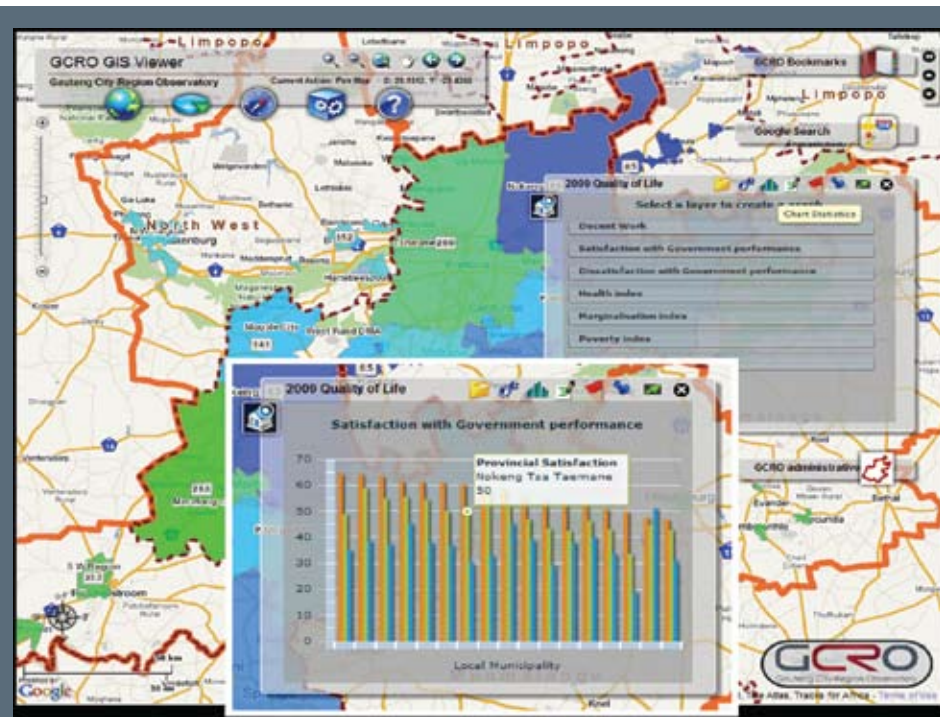
The development agenda GCRO is working on thus has short-, medium- and long-term components; but given the nature of the challenge of building a sustainable, inclusive, competitive city-region, our strategic framework looks more to medium- and long-term than short-term aspects of the agenda.



Data, data infrastructure, data visualisation, indicators and benchmarks

GCRO's initial drive in the first full year of operation to collect existing data, develop new data and innovative data products, and utilise GIS mapping and analysis to provide a better understanding of the GCR, continues to be a key focus area for the organisation.

This was especially relevant with the successful development of the publically accessible, GCRO GIS website. It was developed as an interactive tool to assist both local and provincial governments to better understand the GCR and make informed decisions about development



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GCRO GIS interactive website:

in the city-region. The application allows the user to visualize GCR base data and themed layers, by offering different perspectives of the GCR, such as population distribution, economic datasets and the 2009 'Quality of Life' survey results as maps and graphs. The main users of the application are considered to be the GCRO stakeholders: GPG Planning Commission, GPG Office of the Premier, local government officials and other GCR government agencies. The site is publically accessible through the GCRO website (via the Interactive GIS page), providing public access to the Gauteng City-Region GIS data.

The GCRO GIS interactive website was formally launched on 1 September 2010, with three launch sessions were held at the Wits Chamber of Mines engineering lab. Each session focused on a different group of users, i.e. GIS specialists, government officials involved in planning, and GPG Heads of Departments. After a short introduction explaining the business need for the GIS website and development process, an interactive demonstration of the website was presented by Chris Wray with participants able to interact and learn the various tools and datasets available using the engineering lab PCs. Attendees then evaluated the website by filling in an online questionnaire designed to measure user acceptance of the new application. The demonstration was followed by a presentation from Aubrey Kekana, Director: GIS from the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (DED), detailing the DED's GeoGCR concept plan which aims to maximise the benefits of GIS tools and fundamentally change the delivery of provincial information delivery.

The website has so far received a positive response with most of the launch attendees indicating that they would use the website to improve the performance of their jobs, and that it will be a valuable tool providing access to provincial and local datasets. The website has subsequently received further acclaim from both local and international programmers who have used the website: "One of the best GIS sites I have ever seen" (a local programmer from the Department of Public Works) and

“best GIS solution that I’ve ever seen” (an international developer from the City Administration of Niš, Serbia). A second development phase is scheduled to take place in the 2011/12 financial year to build on the initial success.

The GIS website utilises a number of new innovative datasets that were acquired from various data providers. The data were purchased with a Wits/UJ student and lecturer licence, to ensure that the data is not only utilised within the GIS website and various GCRO projects such as the State of the GCR and OECD Territorial Review, but made available for teaching and research within the GCRO’s partner universities. The purchased data includes:

- Afrigis: Bizcount geocoded business layer, gated communities;
- GeoTerra Image (GTI): 2009 provincial land cover, urban land cover (2.5m resolution), growth indicator (2001 – 2009), and land use (2001-2009);
- Lightstone: DemProKey X 2010 income and demographics per EA and ward, and property deeds transfers (from 1993 – 2010) and valuation (from 2007 – 2010) per EA.

GCRO continues, wherever possible, to negotiate access to, and to acquire and hold GIS data from, a variety of public sector sources. Data obtained include:

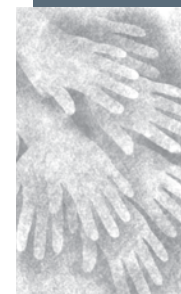
- Department of Human Settlements Housing Atlas: investment potential atlas, community protests spatial viewer and informal settlements;
- Department of Human Settlements: community protest spatial database;
- Eskom: 2008 Spot Building Count (SBC) and national electrical network layers;
- Municipal Demarcation Board: new 2011 elections ward and local municipal boundaries;



▲ GIS website launch comments



▲ GCRO GIS interactive website: Training Day



- CSIR: Gauteng Transport Study (GTS2000) transport zones and attached travel household survey datasets;
- DEAT: Botanical gardens, RAMSAR sites, national parks and world heritage sites;
- Johannesburg City Parks: disaster management layers, open spaces, infrastructure and hydrology;
- GDACE: various environmental layers.

GCRO also generates its own data and the 'Quality of Life' survey – a 6,636 sample survey commissioned in 2009 – was formally launched at a press-conference with the Premier of Gauteng on 27 May 2011. GCRO prepared a number of press-releases for the launch, and these were provided to the media, together with the power-point presentation summarising the findings. The launch generated enormous interest from the media. An estimated 20 articles were written on the results, and GCRO participated in many electronic media programmes to respond to questions on the findings. The Premier, Nomvula Mokonyane, picked up on the findings of the survey in her Budget Speech of 4 June (cited earlier).

GCRO has responded to a number of requests to obtain the data in original SPSS format and data sharing agreements governing the hand-over and use of the data for research/non-commercial gain purposes, have been signed with a number of local and international partners. As of September 2010, some of the results of the 'Quality of Life' survey were also made available as a layer on the GCRO's interactive GIS website. The data are being utilised to draft a journal article on the methodology of measuring quality of life by David Everatt (2011).

In March 2011, a 'survey of surveys' was commissioned to determine what quality of life, customer satisfaction and other related surveys are being conducted in provincial and local government. This is with a view

to building a case for a joint investment by all the governments in the GCR towards a shared survey by 2013 and possibly a quality control policy for government surveys to ensure accuracy, reliability and comparability across the various customer satisfaction surveys currently undertaken at both the local and provincial level. The results of the 'survey of surveys' will be made available in July 2011.

Finally, the State of the Gauteng City-Region review is a multi-media output, that draws together all the data that GCRO has been collating, based on information collected from the 'Quality of Life' survey, OECD process, benchmark indicators development, and GIS data acquisition. A service provider, responsible for working with the GCRO team to develop themes and design the review, was appointed after a highly competitive tender process in April 2010, with the initial conceptualisation of the structure of the review and approaches to its presentation completed in mid-May 2010. In anticipation of the OECD's second mission to Gauteng, the service provider prioritised the production of a comprehensive presentation based on the research material provided by the GCRO staff, which was completed in advance of the OECD's mission starting 19 July and presented to the OECD. Subsequent to the OECD's mission, GCRO re-checked and comprehensively re-wrote all the power-point pages and associated base material and re-submitted this to the service provider to begin work on an Adobe Flash-based website rendering of the analysis and data. The website version of the State of the City-Region Review was concluded in October 2010, with a final check and minor corrections completed in early 2011.

The review includes ten content themes, an introduction/context, a conclusion/prospects section, and a section on Afropolitan culture in the region. The core product will be an interactive CD with 'Flash' graphics and video-content. The State of Gauteng City Review will be formally launched by the Premier in the middle of 2011 and accessed online from the GCRO's website (<http://www.gcro.ac.za/about-gcr/state-of-the-gcr>).



Ad hoc support to government

As a publically funded entity, one of the GCRO's roles is to provide high-level and good quality research support to provincial and local government in the province, where feasible and within the limit that we do not simply become a research consultancy. In response to explicit requests for support, GCRO may either deploy its own capacity, or leverage academic resources from the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Johannesburg. This support enables governments in the GCR to enhance their strategies and policies, as well as decisions and outputs based on those policies. At the same time, it helps to build the GCRO's capacity – and indeed that of the academic community of which we are a part – to better understand the needs and objectives of government in the region.

Support is usually explicitly requested by government departments, the Gauteng Planning Commission, and municipalities, and agreed through terms of reference and a contract. It can also be built on a partnership basis, where GCRO is involved in defining the project parameters together with the relevant provincial department or local municipality, and in co-funding the project. The research may be qualitative and quantitative in nature, and either systematically planned or 'as required' work.

In 2010/11 GCRO undertook a number of projects in response to requests for government support.

Green Strategy Programme for Gauteng

The GCRO's role in assisting government with data, knowledge and research about the GCR has seen a portfolio of "green work" beginning to grow. It is fair to say that the centrality of sustainability work in GCRO's research focus – in areas such as the 'green economy', 'green infrastructure', 'vulnerability and resilience' and 'sustainable urban

governance and infrastructure transitions' – is largely due to requests for support from the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) in both 2009/10 and 2010/11. During 2009/10 GCRO developed a Developmental Green Economy Strategy for Gauteng in response to requests from the then MEC. In 2010/11 we were asked to take this work forward and develop a Green Strategy Programme for Gauteng.

The Green Strategy Programme for Gauteng is the output of a partnership, and co-funding arrangement, between the GCRO and GDED, with structured inputs from a wide range of Gauteng Provincial Government departments and municipalities. The private sector has also played a significant role in this project through both stakeholder interactions during workshops, and by being involved in commissioned sector reports.

The Programme builds on the strategic commitments in a wide range of policies and strategies developed by the GPG over the last few years. These include the Medium Term Strategic Framework, GPG's economic recovery plan in response to the financial crisis, the Gauteng Employment Growth and Development Strategy, the Gauteng Integrated Energy Strategy and the draft Gauteng Climate Change Response Strategy. It also echoes strategy work at national and local government levels in, for example, the New Growth Path, the draft national Strategy and Action Plan on Sustainable Development, Outcome 10, and municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) for the 2009-2014 term of office.

The process of developing the Green Strategy Programme has involved: major stakeholder consultations, with one of two key workshops held in the 2010/11 financial year (with the other in May 2011); background research into policy objectives across all three spheres, with an analysis of key gaps and contradictions; and the development of a new set of agreed targets and actions in a number of sector programme statements. Throughout the process, GCRO staff worked closely with GDED officials



and a team of external consultants. The project covered nine sectors, Air Quality, Climate Change, Economic Development, Energy, Food Security, Land Use, Transport, Water and Sanitation, and Waste. GCRO staff undertook work on three of these sectors, and co-ordinated the efforts of consultants on the other six.

The final Green Strategy Programme, to be completed in 2011/12, will inform objectives and activities of departments and municipalities in the province so that all parts of government working on green issues within Gauteng are focused on the same targets. Ultimately, each provincial department and municipality, and ideally also national government departments and agencies working in Gauteng, should align to and work co-operatively towards the vision and programme commitments in this Green Strategy Programme (GSP).

GCRO has received a very positive response to its work on the Programme, in particular at the well-attended stakeholder workshops. This has clearly positioned GCRO to connect to emerging local, provincial and national sustainability concerns, with us receiving a number of spin-off requests for support. As an example, in January 2011, in response to a request from the City of Johannesburg, GCRO convened and facilitated a workshop for local government in the province on the meaning of the green economy. GCRO was also requested to present work on the Green Strategic Programme as part of a panel on the green economy at the National Department of Economic Development's annual Economic Development Conference. We have begun to receive requests to assist municipalities in the province to develop their own green economy strategies. We have also responded to an increasing number of requests to participate in and share insights at various government planning events. The Green Strategic Programme has clearly provided a platform to upscale our capacity and research in the area of sustainability, with the view to providing ongoing assistance to government in the region to unpack what it would mean for the GCR to become more sustainable.

Strategic support to the Gauteng Planning Commission: 50 Priority Wards

During the latter part of 2010, the GCRO was approached by the Gauteng Planning Commission (GPC) to undertake a baseline study into the 50 Priority Wards identified by the Premier to help spatially target development initiatives. As of May 2011, the date for the fourth democratic local elections, there are 508 wards in Gauteng. These wards, delineated by the Municipal Demarcation Board, have been adjusted from previous wards defined in 2006 (and previously used to select 50 priority wards). They provide new political jurisdictions within which ward councillors and community development workers will operate until the next local elections take place in 2016, and therefore in turn new frames for community-based planning by local government, and programme targeting by provincial departments.

Given the changed ward boundaries, the GPC was interested in understanding the location of priority wards in the Province, based on a number of indicators and using up to date data. Through a process of statistical analysis and mapping that culminated in April 2011, GCRO worked to derive an index, and then a map, of a possible new set of 50 Priority Wards in Gauteng. The project relied heavily on the enabling technology of GIS to perform statistical modelling. A variety of datasets were used, including those collected or purchased by the GCRO over the past year, as well as up to date data from provincial departments on, for example, the location of school and health facilities. Mapping was done for selected indicators, results across all indicators were summed, and the final map of Priority Wards compared against the 50 'poorest wards' that were originally identified by GPG. The results were also visually overlaid with the 20 Priority Townships identified by the Premier, and compiled into a presentation for use by the GPC. Finally, an evaluation spreadsheet was developed where the user is able to apply weightings in order to assess how the overall ward prioritisation changes with changes in relative weighting of the indicators.

Other *ad-hoc* support

Apart from the two major projects reported on above, GCRO has provided strategic support to other GPG departments and municipalities on an occasional *ad hoc* basis. In 2010/11 this included the following:

In mid 2010, GCRO assisted the Department of Economic Development to finalise the GEGDS. This involved giving strategic advice on possible content, and editorial support on drafts of the document.

GCRO agreed to act as a conduit for contracting the Learning Information Networking Knowledge (LINK) Centre at the University of the Witwatersrand Graduate School of Public & Development Management (P&DM) by the GDED. LINK is preparing an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Development Strategy for the Department.

GCRO also sourced a consultant to undertake a 'Close out report on the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup' for the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (SACR). GCRO commissioned the consultant on the Department's behalf, and the final draft of the report was concluded in March 2011.

David Everatt and Graeme Gotz met with the HoD and senior staff of SACR to discuss an audit of all sport and recreation facilities, including spatial geo-coding of all such assets. Preliminary work on the project included an initial scan of available geo-coded data derived from satellite images.

The Innovation Hub is a high technology business incubator partnership between the GPG and the Southern Education and Research Alliance. The GCRO assisted them with site selection methodology and maps to support the selection of sites for a feasibility study as part of the Moringa Oleifera food security project, in the northern areas of Tshwane.

The GCRO was represented on the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) Mine Residue Areas Rehabilitation Strategy Project steering committee, and participated in the GDARD Air Quality Directorate's project related to the Gauteng Climate Change Response Strategy (GCCRS).

GCRO provided information to the Department of Economic Development on various higher education questions for a project on 'researcher mobility'.



04



Applied research projects

Central to the GCRO's work is a series of medium- to longer-term applied research programmes and projects. These differ from GCRO's direct support to government in that they are generally not short-term, do not necessarily respond to an immediate policy imperative, and tend to be more in depth, analytically complex and academically rigorous. Their outputs are typically a more detailed analytical report or set of academic publications, rather than a policy or strategy document, as is commonly the case with requested support.

In 2010/11 GCRO scaled up its applied research work considerably.

OECD Territorial Review of the GCR

The OECD Territorial Review of the Gauteng City-Region is one of GCRO's largest projects to date. It involves working with the GPC, which has commissioned the OECD, based in Paris, to conduct a territorial review of Gauteng. The OECD has undertaken similar reviews in over 20 cities and city-regions around the world. The project entails an 18-month research and consultation process that will deliver a comprehensive report on the challenges and opportunities facing the city-region, in comparative perspective. The analysis will compare Gauteng against 90 other cities and regions in the OECD's metro-regions database, providing a vital foundation for ongoing GCRO work to benchmark the GCR globally.

The Review process formally started in 2009/10 with preliminary work on a comprehensive Background Report, and a first successful mission by the OECD secretariat to Gauteng in February 2011. Work on the project was scaled up significantly in 2010/11. Draft chapters of the Background Report were delivered to the OECD in May and June 2010. July saw the second Mission of the OECD to Gauteng, involving over 20 sessions and tours, and a series of smaller one-on-one meetings, with almost 150 different participants giving information and opinions over the course of the week. During August and September GCRO made further additions to the Background Report, delivering a final draft in mid-October of some 300 pages, and also responded to extensive requests from the OECD for further information, data, maps, reports and contacts. During November and December GCRO also assisted one of the OECD's expert reviewers with contacts for interviews, and access to information and policy documents.

The OECD delivered a preliminary draft of recommendations in early December 2010, the first two chapters of the Review in late December, and the third and final chapter in mid-February 2011. On behalf of the GPC, GCRO then initiated a process of reading the draft Review and co-ordinating comments from Steering Committee members, GPG readers, external quality control specialists and the GCRO's own staff. The process concludes in the 2011/12 financial year, with comments from Gauteng being incorporated into further drafts, the document being approved by the OECD's Territorial Development Policy Committee due to meet in Paris in June 2011, and then the formal publishing of the Territorial Review.

Spatial change in the GCR

Gauteng confronts mounting concern that spatial trends may be compounding the effects of apartheid, the possibility that its population may double by 2055, and the very real prospect of future economic and environmental risks and shocks. There is an urgent need to understand whether its spatial form, fabric and function are resilient enough to cope with change. A starting point is to understand the rapid spatial changes that are already occurring, for example in terms of population growth and changing land use. This project links with Professor Philip Harrison's National Research Foundation (NRF)-SARChI Chair to map and model spatial change in Gauteng cities. The core output will be a series of books on spatial change in Gauteng.

The project got underway in June 2010, when GCRO jointly hosted, with the NRF Chair and the School of Architecture and Planning (SoAP) at Wits, a 'Spatial change workshop' that discussed research underway on spatial developments in the region. The workshop, attended by academics and local and provincial government officials involved in planning in Gauteng, laid a foundation for agreement between GCRO, the NRF Chair, and Professor Alison Todes from SoAP, on the outline of a first book of the series, focused on Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand.

Subsequent books will focus on Tshwane and its hinterland, and then on the outer ring of mining and industrial towns to the east, west and south of Gauteng's core. By the end of March 2010 a set of some 30 chapters had been agreed with contributing authors, a proposal had been submitted to Wits University Press, and work on draft chapters had begun.

GCRO staff will contribute four chapters to the manuscript, will co-draft the introduction, and will also ensure a consistent approach to all maps and images. One of the chapters in the book will build on work being undertaken by Brian Mubiwa, a PhD student attached to Enerkey at UJ, who, with GCRO financial support, has mapped spatial change in Gauteng using remote sensing data from 1990, 2000 and 2009.

Promises, expectations and residents' experiences of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup

In June and July 2010, South Africa hosted a hugely successful FIFA Soccer World Cup, with much of the action focused on stadiums around the GCR. In theory, such mega-events provide host cities with the opportunity to present themselves on a global stage, fast-track developments that improve social and economic infrastructure, promote job creation and improve the quality of life. Assessments of whether mega-events in fact achieve this tend to be dominated by quantitative cost-benefit analyses and descriptive case studies. This longitudinal qualitative ethnographical research examines the impact of the 2010 FIFA World Cup on small traders who had expectations of business prospects improving around the World Cup. Three repeat (panel survey) visits are being conducted on 200 businesses, the first in June 2010, the second in November 2010, and the third scheduled for June/July 2011.

Terms of Reference for a fieldwork agency to conduct all three of the scheduled panel surveys was written and circulated to bidders in April 2010. A successful bidder was appointed in May 2010, contracted to



survey 200 micro and small enterprises across the three survey periods. The first two panel surveys were successfully run according to schedule, with results available shortly after fieldwork and shared with members of the GCRO Board. The third survey will be held in July 2011.

As a companion to this study GCRO contributed to a project focusing on the impact of the World Cup on people living in the precincts immediately nearby stadia, run by Aly Karam and Margot Rubin of the Wits SoaP. It is hoped that the two sets of results will complement each other in a way that enables a joint report / publication to be developed.

Xenophobia research

In 2009/10, with funding from Atlantic Philanthropies, GCRO and Strategy & Tactics jointly commissioned a national study of civil society responses to the xenophobic violence of 2008, working with partners from UKZN, UWC and UJ. The study was intended to feed policy-oriented recommendations back to civil society regarding both xenophobia and the lessons needing to be learned about strengthening civil society. GCRO staff took responsibility for two case studies, one on the role of the corporate sector, with a specific focus on the mining industry, and the other on the role of churches. In addition, GCRO wrote a case study on results from focus group discussions recorded shortly after the xenophobic violence in 2008, and crafted the overall introductions setting the context for what happened.

In 2010/11 this large and multifaceted study drew to a close. April 2010 saw the conclusion of all final synthesis papers, and the initial press launch of findings at the Rosebank offices of the Atlantic Philanthropies. At the launch, authors, including GCRO staff, made brief presentations about their respective studies to the press, and findings appeared in a number of newspapers. Following the launch, GCRO staff were involved in a wide range of interviews conducted by both the print and electronic

media, including with SAfm, eTV, Rainbow FM, the Business Day and the Star, amongst others. The results were subsequently also launched in Cape Town, and Durban. A seminar on the results was hosted by Prof Adam Habib at UJ in October 2010. In late 2010, David Everatt guest edited an edition of the SAPSE-accredited journal *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies*, that carried nine of the case studies from this project. He is also in discussion with UKZN Press regarding a possible book output as well.

Presidency Service Delivery Project – Research into municipal revenue systems and processes

GCRO was approached by Karl von Holdt, Director of the Society, Work and Development Institute (SWOP) at Wits, to work with Roland Hunter on a case study on the way municipal revenue processes work in two South African cities, in order to provide a fresh perspective on the reasons why some municipal revenue systems apparently work well, while others do not. The case study is one of a series, each involving an ethnography of organisational cultures, dynamics, structures, as well as formal and informal procedures and rationales that impact on the functionality and/or dysfunctionality of state institutions, and therefore on their ability to deliver reasonable quality services. This project started in 2009/10 with workshops with the wider team of researchers convened by SWOP, as well as fieldwork in the City of Johannesburg in November 2009, and in eThekweni in March 2010. A second phase of fieldwork was conducted in the City of Johannesburg in the last two weeks of April 2010. A first draft of the report was prepared by the end of May 2010, with a combined workshop with all researchers on the project held on the 8th and 9th of June 2010. The final draft of the research report was completed in September 2010, and a further workshop was convened by the Presidency in January 2011 to discuss all the papers in the project. The project now awaits clarity from the Presidency on how reporting to Cabinet will proceed, and what kind of publication may follow.

05

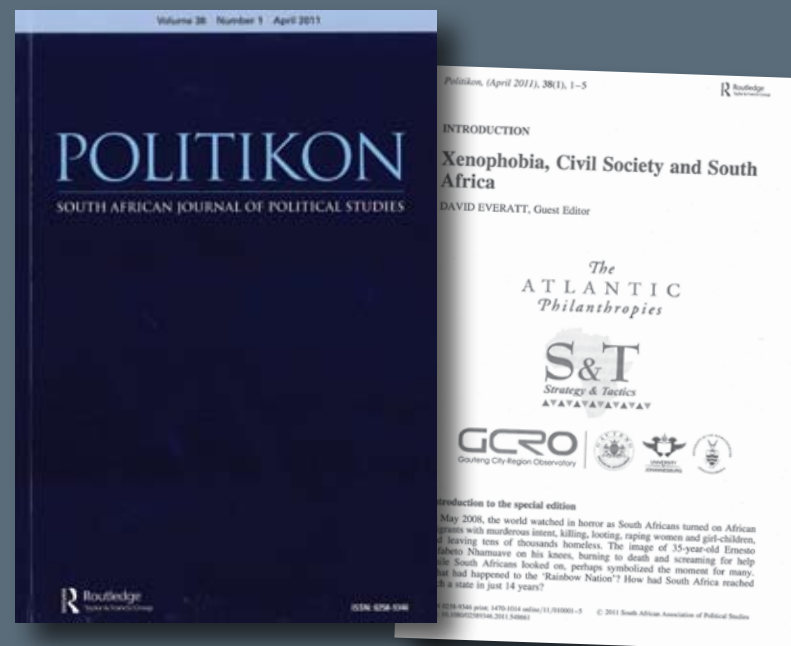
Academic contribution & visitors Series



SAPSE publications

GCRO has been steadily building our academic publishing record. This marks a transitional step from the early years of our existence when there was little or no established data about the GCR on which to base academic publications. Producing robust and relevant new data and analysis about the state of the GCR takes time and sustained effort. Now that GCRO has established itself with research and data at hand, academic publishing is well underway. It is our goal to publish in academic peer-reviewed journals as the outcome of each research project undertaken at the Observatory.

One publishing highlight for the year is the special edition focusing on xenophobia and civil society for the SAPSE-accredited journal *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies*. The special edition was based on Atlantic Philanthropies-funded research on the implications of the May 2008 xenophobic violence for civil society in South Africa. It was edited by David Everatt and brought together a number of contextual pieces and case studies from the research, with international and local peer reviewers helping us turn around the edition in just three months.



Special edition of *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies*, edited by David Everatt

Our published works for 2010/11 include:

- Everatt D. (2010), book review of Cardo M. 'Opening Men's Eyes: Peter Brown and the Liberal Struggle for South Africa' in *Focus*, the journal of the Helen Suzman Foundation, October 2010.
- Everatt D. (2011), 'Xenophobia, Civil Society and South Africa' in *Politikon* (April 2011) 38 (1): 1-5.
- Everatt D. (2011), 'Xenophobia, State and Society in South Africa, 2008-2010' in *Politikon* (April 2011) 38 (1): 7-35.
- Everatt, D., Marais, H., and Dube, N. (2010), 'Participation...for what purpose? Analysing the depth and quality of public participation in the Integrated Development Planning Process in Gauteng' in *Politikon* (December 2010) 37 (2): 223-249.
- Gotz, G., Pieterse, E., and Smit, W. (2011), 'Design, limits and prospects of metropolitan governance in South Africa', published in Portuguese as 'Desenho, limites e perspectivas da governanca metropolitana na Africa do Sol', in Klink, J. (ed), *Governanca das Metropoles: Conceitos, experiencias e perspectivas*, AnnaBlume, Sao Paolo.
- Nyar, A. (2010), 'Business as Usual: the response of the corporate sector to the May 2008 xenophobic violence' in *Politikon* (April 2011) 38 (1): 147-164.
- Phakathi, S. (2010), 'Workplace change and frontline supervision in deep-level gold mining: Managerial rhetoric or practice?', *Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa*, 72(73):181-204, July 2010.

There are a number of works in the pipeline shortly destined for academic publication:

- Storie, M. (2011, forthcoming), 'Utilising Disaster Risk Management as a Sustainable Spatial Development Planning tool' in *Journal of the Disaster Management Institute of South Africa*.
- Everatt D., and Gwagwa L. (2011, forthcoming), 'Co-ordination and integration: The perpetually elusive grail of governance' in Plaatjies D. (ed) *Future inheritance: Building state capacity in democratic South Africa*.
- Everatt D. (forthcoming): 'Class, race and voting in South Africa' in Mbeki M. (ed.) *Advocates of Change: How to Overcome Africa's Challenges* (MacMillan, Johannesburg).

GCRO publications

GCRO has initiated a publication series under its own cover, including an 'Occasional Paper' series and a 'Provocations' series. To our delight, the launch of the first *Provocation* on 25 November 2010 – on acid mine decanting by Prof Terence McCarthy – was well-attended and much discussed in the media, the academy and elsewhere. The *Provocation* series is about making GCRO known and recognized for its cutting edge research as well as our ability to raise challenging issues and throw them up for debate. Importantly, it also has the effect of increasing the impact of our work.

Our work thus far includes:

- Occasional Paper 1: Everatt, D., Gotz, G., Makgetla, N., and Phakathi, S. (2010), *Benchmarking city and city-region responses to the economic crisis*, July 2010 (printed).

- Occasional Paper 2: Greenberg, S. (2010), *The political economy of the Gauteng city-region: a review of the literature*, October 2010 (printed).
- Provocations 1: McCarthy, T. (2010), *The decanting of acid mine water in the Gauteng city-region: Analysis, prognosis and solutions*, October 2010 (printed).



Presentations

As part of our commitment to academic citizenship and scholarship, GCRO has established the practice of regularly engaging in academic presentations. Over the last year we have had the experience and privilege of a number of vibrant academic exchanges in South Africa and beyond:

- David Everatt (March 2010), 'The state of xenophobia in South Africa today', presented to Atlantic Philanthropies breakaway, Mount Grace, March 2010.
- Graeme Gotz (May 2010), 'Selected extracts from GCRO's Quality of Life Survey', ANC Gauteng Region Symposium on Local Government, 3 May 2010.
- Graeme Gotz (May 2010), 'What did the 2006 Inner City Regeneration Charter represent?', Johannesburg Development Agency seminar on Inner City regeneration, Halala Awards, 12 May 2010.
- David Everatt (May 2010), 'Quality of Life in the Gauteng city-region', survey launch event, 27 May 2010.
- Graeme Gotz (May 2010), 'Bad buildings', African Urbanism Symposium, Cairo, 28-31 May 2010.
- David Everatt (May 2010), 'Marginalisation in the Gauteng City-Region: First steps towards measurement', African Centre for Cities & CUBES: South African Cities Conference, May 2010.
- David Everatt (August 2010), 'Non-racialism in South Africa', seminar, Centre for Critical Research into Race and Identity, UKZN, August 2010.
- Maryna Storie (September 2010), 'Utilising disaster risk management as a sustainable spatial development planning tool', Disaster Management Institute of South Africa National Conference, Port Shepstone, 8 September 2010.
- David Everatt (September 2010), 'The Challenges of Creating Inclusive, Democratic City-regions in Post-Apartheid South Africa', African Studies seminar, University of Wisconsin: Madison, September 2010.
- Graeme Gotz (October 2010), 'Bad buildings in Inner City Johannesburg', GCRO, CUBES and NRF Chair: Faces of the City Seminar Series, 5 October 2010.
- Annsilla Nyar (October 2010), 'Accommodating Diversity and Migration in African Cities: the Gauteng City-Region in Perspective',

15th International Metropolis Conference: Justice and Migration: Paradoxes of Belonging, The Hague, Netherlands, 4-8 October 2010.

- Chris Wray (November 2010), 'Enabling successful G-Governance through the development of a web 2.0 GIS website for the Gauteng Provincial Government', Map Africa 2010 Conference, Cape Town, 23-25 November 2010.
- Graeme Gotz and Alexis Schaffler (January 2010), 'Understanding the green economy', Workshop on Local Government and the Green Economy, 17 January 2011.
- Ferrial Adam, Alexis Schaffler and Maryna Storie (January 2010), 'Implementation of a Green Economy Approach', Workshop on Local Government and the Green Economy, 17 January 2011.
- Chris Wray (February 2011), 'GCRO spatial data initiatives, GCRO GIS website & co-ordinated national SDI', National Planning Commission SDI workshop, Union Buildings, Pretoria, 17 February 2011.
- Maryna Storie delivered (with his permission) Prof Terence McCarthy's Provocation Series presentation on Acid Mine Drainage in the GCR to a variety of groups, including: DMISA Southern Region Annual General Meeting; DMISA Tshwane Region General Meeting; and the Roodepoort Emergency Services.

Other thoughtful engagements continue to take place regularly within GCRO. We are now growing a global network of city-region contacts who help school us in the particular challenges of unemployment, poverty, social inequality, exclusion, crime and social tension, environmental degradation and congestion, beset by their own cities and regions. In October 2010 Annsilla Nyar led a group of Gauteng-based development experts drawn from the City of Jo'burg (CoJ) and the South African Local

Governments Association (SALGA), on a mission to better understand city-regions. The group went to the Hague in Amsterdam to meet with two key ministries in the Randstad-region of the Netherlands: the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment as well as the Ministry of Transport, Waterworks and Public Management. We had a lively engagement with both ministries. Our discussions sprawled from city-region definitions, regional co-operation, demographic trends, governance arrangements and infrastructure priorities all the way to state-national funding for city-regions. We left with an appreciation of Dutch planning efficiency and a sobering understanding of challenges ahead for Gauteng.

We travelled to Paris in order to meet with Professor Alan Mabin from the Centre for Urban and Built Environment Studies (CUBES) at Wits University, who introduced us to the complex planning and governance arrangements of the Paris city-region. We met formally with the Institut D'aménagement et D'Urbanisme, Île-de-France IAU-IdF (the Paris planning agency responsible for regional planning and development policies. Our discussion focused on the Schéma Directeur de la région Île-de-France (SDRIF)-the strategic plan for the region-and its implications for development in the Paris-region. We held a meeting with our colleagues at the OECD with whom we are working on a Territorial Review of the Gauteng City-Region. Michael Donovan organised a discussion of South African development policies with OECD experts who have current and previous experience of working on reviews of South Africa. Our stay in France was complemented by a cordial formal welcome from the South African embassy in France which also pledged goodwill and co-operation toward Gauteng.

Visitors series

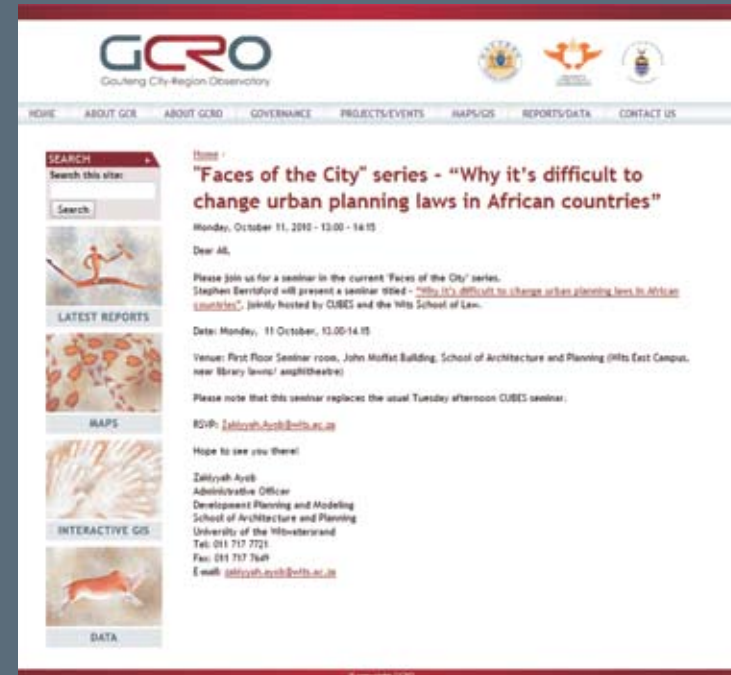
The learning environment taking root in the Observatory is enriched by the contributions of interesting and influential visitors. We have worked to secure visits from high-level researchers or practitioners for the purpose of reflecting on and writing up their work experiences. This includes a stay at the GCRO offices for a defined period. In 2010 our 'visitors series' kicked off with NRF Chair in Urban Planning and Modelling, Phil Harrison, moving into the GCRO offices on 1 April 2010. Unfortunately Prof Harrison's visit came to a rather sudden end, with GCRO's unavoidable move into temporary office space at the end of August (due to the construction of the new Wits art gallery immediately beneath our offices), and with Prof Harrison finding alternative space in the School of Architecture and Planning. The visit laid a foundation for ongoing co-operation with Prof Harrison as a member of the RAC, through the launching of a joint seminar series, and through the design of a collaborative book series project on spatial change in Gauteng. We are currently negotiating with other visitors for further engagements.

'Faces of the City' seminar series

GCRO has continued to co-host the 'Faces of the City' seminar series, together with Phil Harrison and CUBES. It ran from July to November 2010 and its second part ran from March to September 2011. GCRO staff play a role in chairing some sessions, acting as discussants and presenting seminars within the series. Some of the seminars have been extremely successful in terms of attracting large numbers. A fine example of this is Professor Anton Harber's seminar on his book on one of South Africa's most vibrant and volatile townships, 'Diepsloot'.

Other workshops

As part of our academic engagements, GCRO is often involved in organising workshops and presentations for the purposes of initiating academic dialogues. This enriches our relationships with other academic and practitioner stakeholders. GCRO assisted the African Centre for Cities (ACC) and South African Cities Network (SACN) with the organisation of a workshop on 'Urbanisation Trends & Development Planning Dynamics', held on 14 May 2010. At the workshop, Aromar Revi of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements presented a version of the presentation done the day before at the RAC. At the initial request of the City of Johannesburg (but with involvement subsequently extended to various Gauteng municipalities and GPG departments), GCRO co-organised a workshop on 'Local Government and the Green Economy' on 17 January 2011.



'Faces of the City' page on the GCRO website

David Everatt and Graeme Gotz attended a workshop on possible comparative research between urban observatories and similar organisations in Brazil, China and India (supported by the India, Brazil and South Africa co-operation programme), organised by the African Centre for Cities in March 2011. Immediately thereafter, David, Graeme, Maryna Storie and Alexis Shaffler attended a Comparative Dialogue on Sustainable Infrastructure Transitions and Governance, hosted by the ACC and the Sustainability Institute in Stellenbosch, at the end of March 2011, funded by GCRO. The workshop included representatives from planning authorities and universities in South Africa, the United Kingdom, Brazil, India, China and Thailand. It provided the basis for contact between the parties, and collaboration towards a book to be published in 2012/13.

Teaching and supervision

- GCRO staff are involved in the teaching and learning activities of various universities through lecturing and supervision:
- Graeme Gotz taught a semester course, 'Johannesburg as a City in Africa', to 3rd year planning students in the School of Architecture and Planning at Wits University, from July-November 2010.
- David Everatt is supervising three Masters and two PhD students at the Graduate School of Public and Development Management.
- Maryna Storie supervised eight Honours students in the field of "Spatial Decision Support Systems", in the Department of GeoInformatics, University of Pretoria. She is also supervising a Masters student in the field of disaster management at the Disaster

Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) at the University of the Free State.

- Chris Wray served as an external examiner for a Wits Department of Electrical and Information Engineering fourth year project in October 2010.
- David Everatt served as external examiner for a Masters thesis from the Sustainability Institute, University of Stellenbosch.
- Maryna Storie has been requested to act as co-supervisor with Prof Harold Annegarn at the University of Johannesburg on a mini-thesis of one of his Masters students on the topic of 'Flood management and vulnerability in Diepsloot'.
- Graeme Gotz presented two lectures to the Urban Infrastructure Design and Management Masters Programme at UCT in March 2011, one on the Phiri Water Case and the other on Growth Management Strategies.



06

GCRO: financial reports

Report of the independent auditors

To the members of
GAUTENG CITY-REGION OBSERVATORY (GCRO)

Report on the financial statements

We report that we have performed an audit and have examined the accounting records of the University of the Witwatersrand insofar as they relate to the GCRO.

Audit opinion

Based on our examination thereof, we have satisfied ourselves that the attached financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011 are in agreement with the University of the Witwatersrand accounting records insofar as they relate to GCRO.



M Saboor
Director
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Johannesburg
Date: 1 August 2011

Notes to the annual financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2011

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The annual financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis and include the following accounting policies used by the GCRO:

1.2 Revenue recognition

Revenue received by the project for designated specific purposes arises from contracts, grants, donations and income on specifically purposed endowments. In all cases any such revenue is brought into the income statement in the financial period in which the project is entitled to use the funds.

1.3 Funds

Funds comprise specifically purposed income relating to funds that have been provided in agreements stipulating the purpose for which they may be expended and the directors have no discretion over the use of these funds.

1.4 Taxation

No provision is made for taxation as the project falls under the University of the Witwatersrand, which is exempt from taxation.

2. In-kind contributions

The following in-kind contributions were provided by the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Johannesburg respectively R3 134 655 and R1 885 408 (2010: R2,801,737 and R1 714 007).

3. Unexpended funds

The above unexpended funds have been committed to being expended on items required for the Gauteng City-Region Observatory's continued operations but have not physically been expended as at year end.

4. Administered funds

The Gauteng City-Region Observatory has a value of R4 900 000 (2010: R4 900 000) held by the University of the Witwatersrand on behalf of the Gauteng City-Region Observatory.

Full audited financial statements available on GCRO website: www.gcro.ac.za





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