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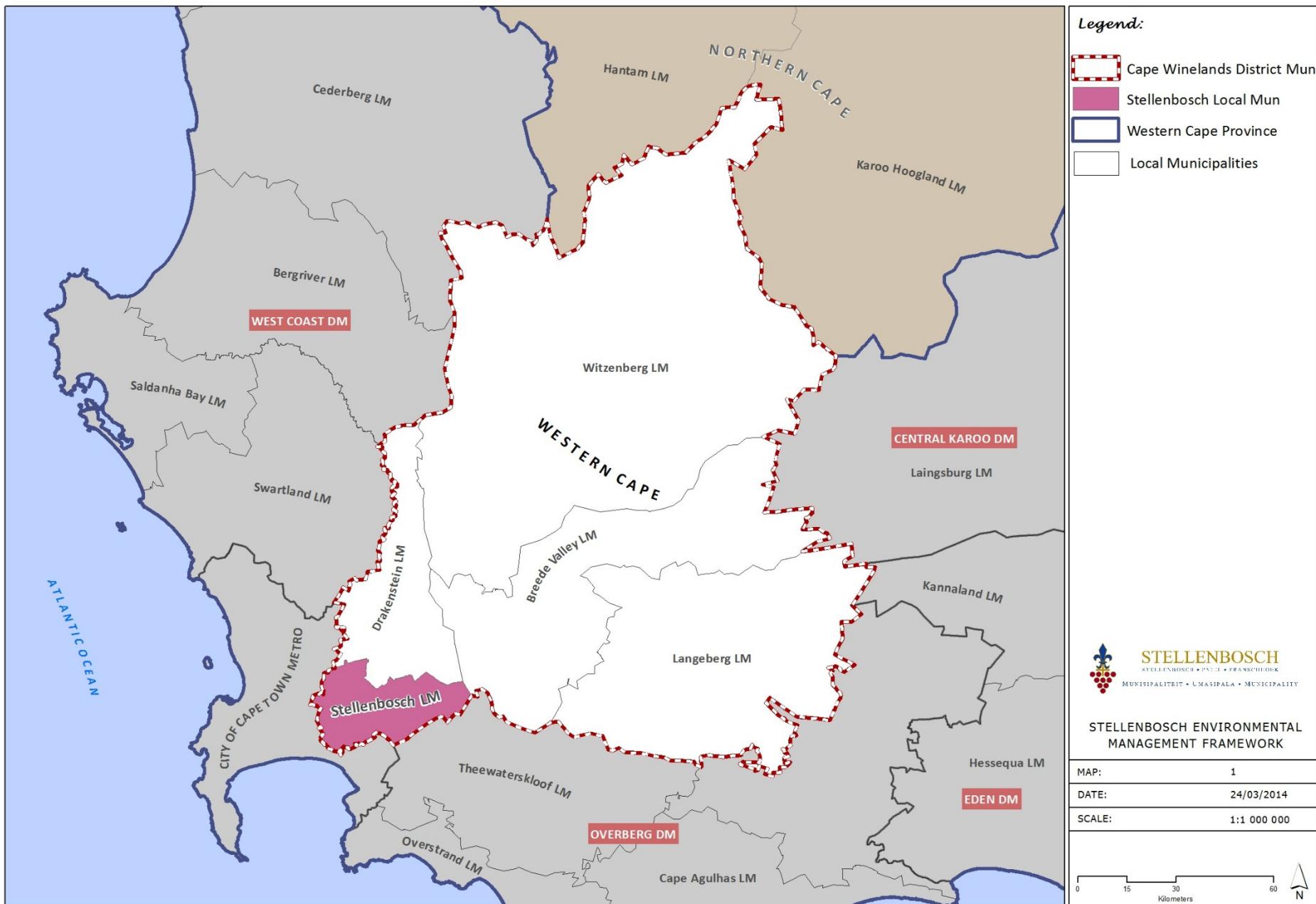
**Intermediaries and learning in
sustainability-oriented urban transitions:
a transdisciplinary case study from
Stellenbosch Municipality**

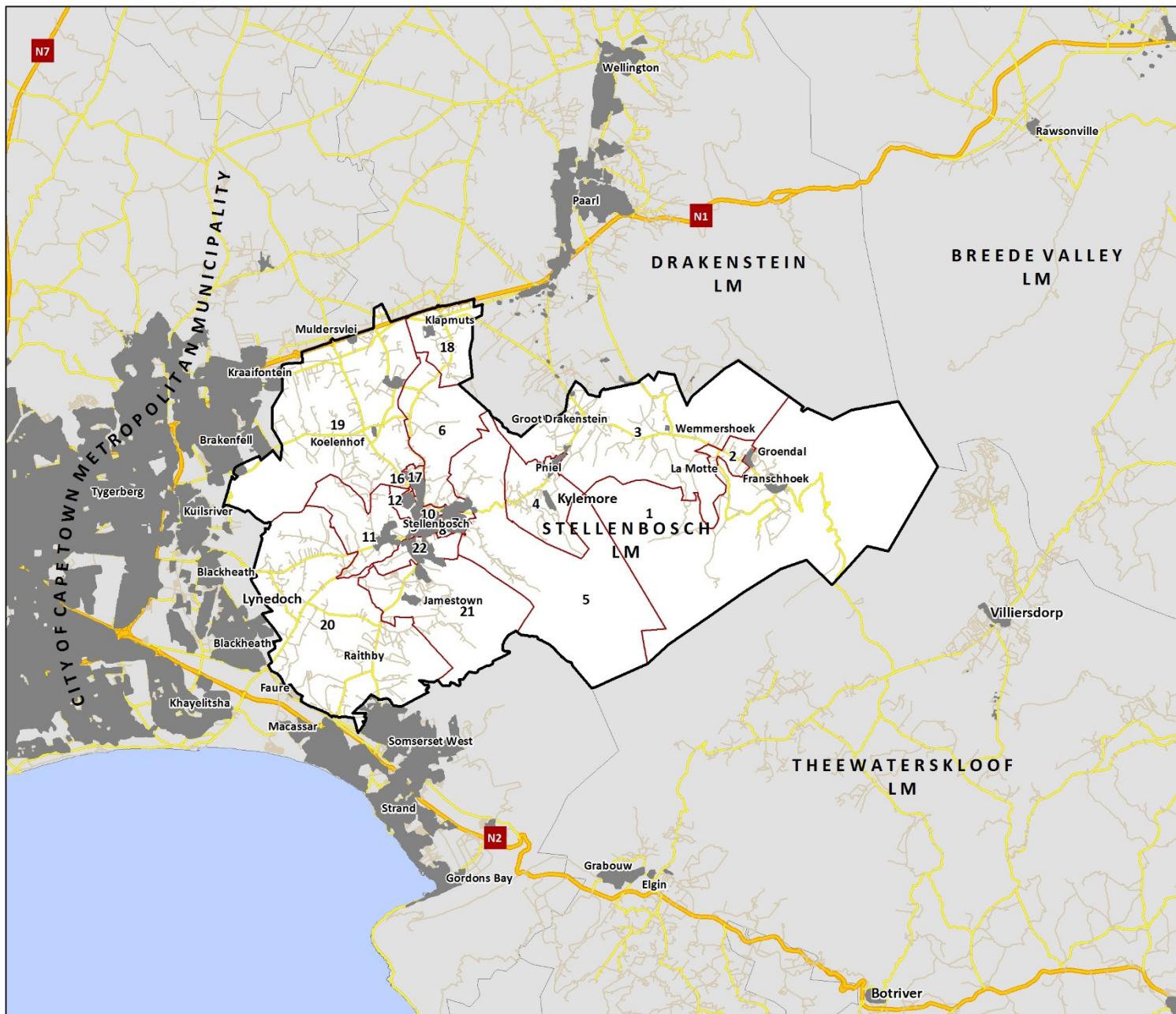
Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.



Contextualising the research

Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.





Legend:

Stellenbosch Municipality

Stell_Wards

Representation: Google_Streetmap

Highways

Main and Secondary Roads

Other Roads

Local Municipalities

STELLENBOSCH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

MAP: 2

DATE: 24/03/2014

SCALE: 1:250 000

0 3.75 7.5 15
Kilometers

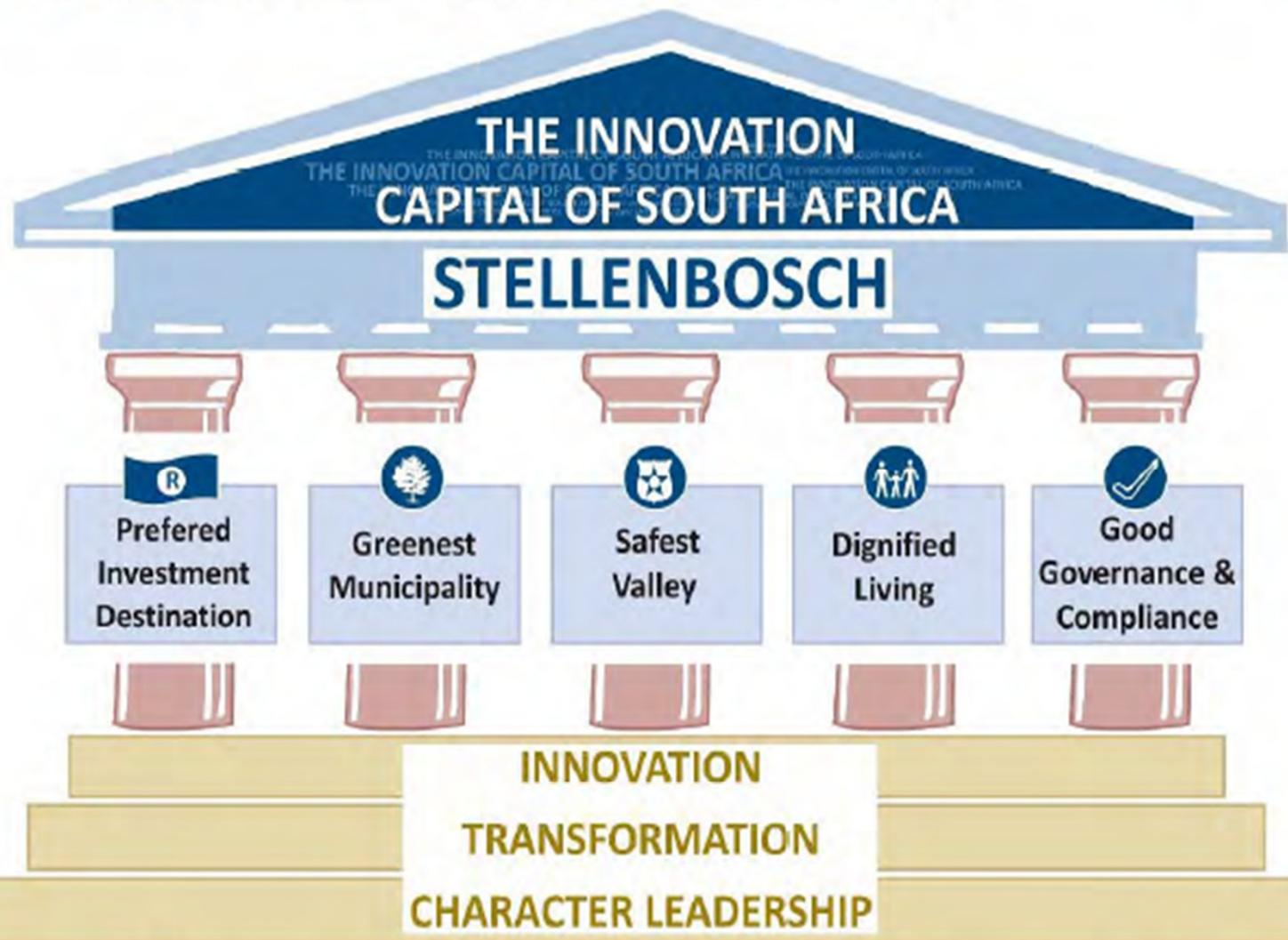




STELLENBOSCH

STELLENBOSCH • PNIEI • FRANSCHHOEK

MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITÉ



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to deliver cost-effective services that will provide the most enabling environment for civil and corporate citizens.

OUR VALUES

In all of our moral and engagements, we subscribe to the following values:



Character Leadership: We undertake to involve communities in planning development in their areas, provide regular progress reports on the implementation of these plans and deal decisively and swiftly with poor performance, mismanagement of council assets, corruption and fraud that are all impediments to good municipal government.



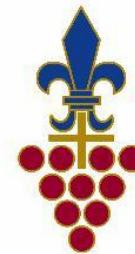
Transformation: We will tirelessly work at transforming our municipality, communities and broader society as custodians of hope through unlocking the endless possibilities our valley holds tomorrow. This commitment is shared by our understanding of the historical, spatial, social and economic inequalities that lie in our valley.



Innovation: We will continuously review our systems, procedures and processes to make them more transparent, accountable and more responsive to customer needs. We will acknowledge and reward initiatives which show creativity and ingenuity.



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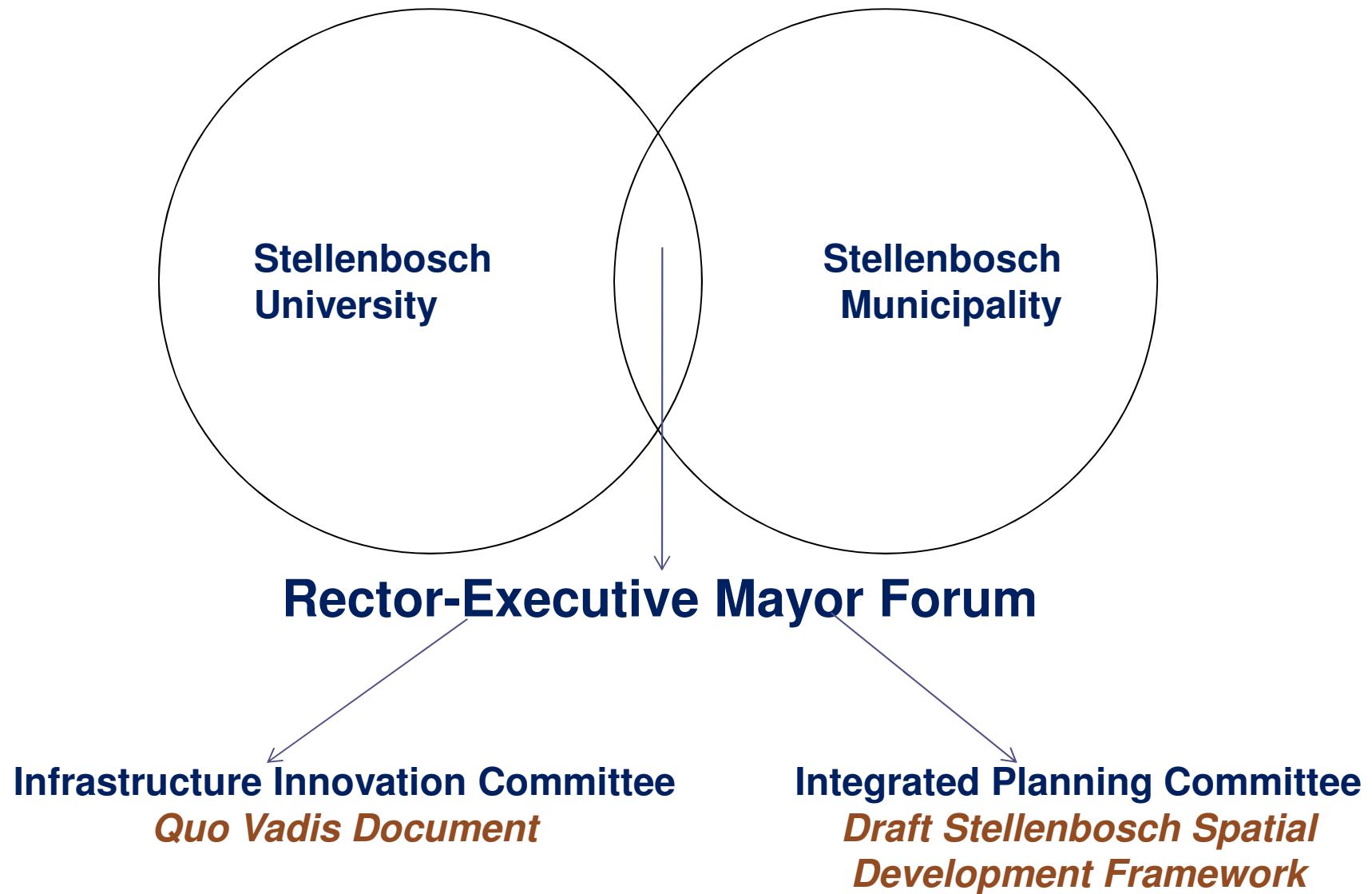
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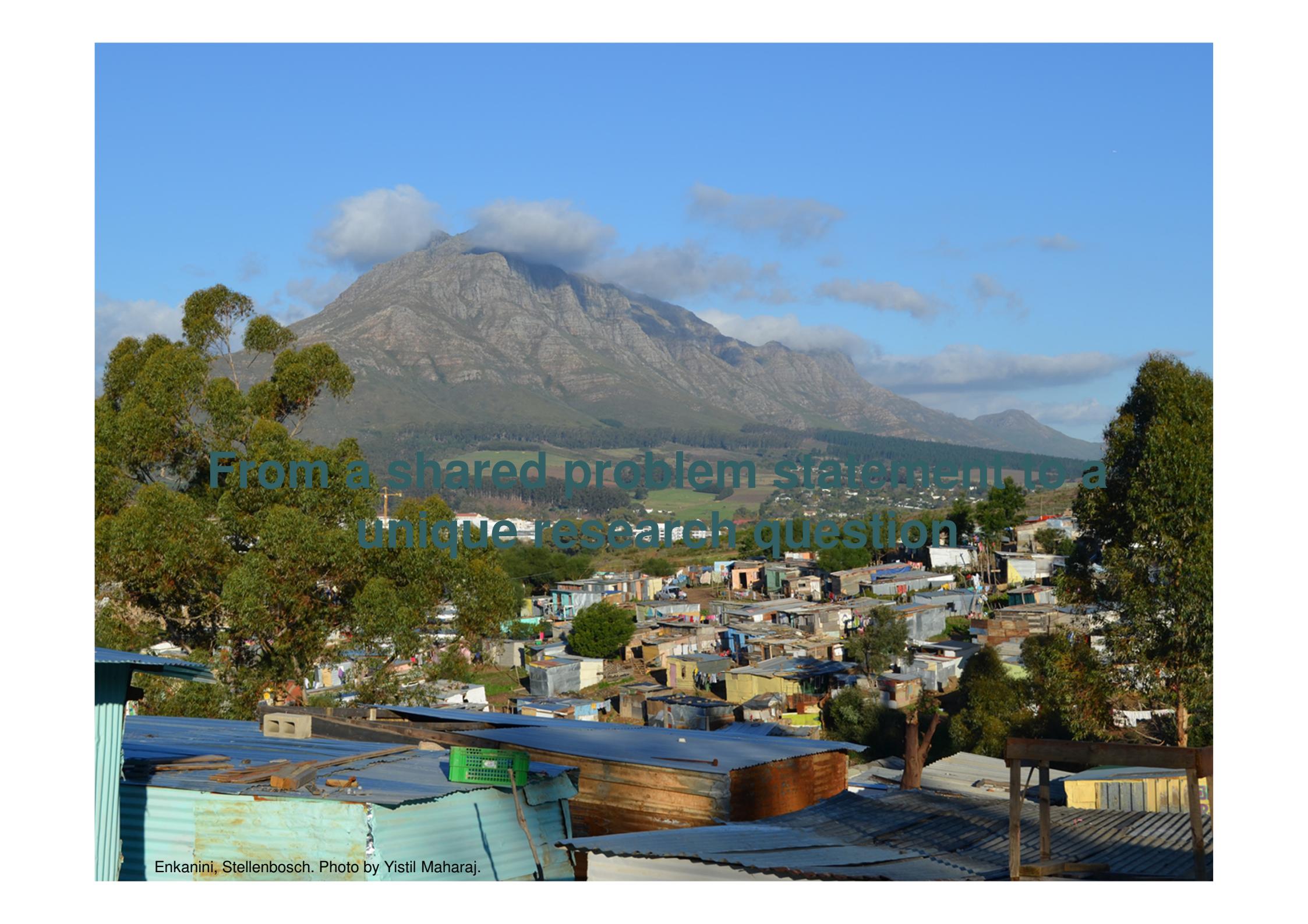
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Innovative institutional arrangements





From a shared problem statement to a unique research question

Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.

*The current state of affairs relating to **infrastructure** in the Stellenbosch municipal area is that the existing landfill is full, sewage treatment plants have reached capacity, key components of the existing road infrastructure are failing and due for upgrading, water supply over the long-term is not secure and energy supplies are becoming increasingly expensive and are effectively capped until 2014/15 (or later). Therefore **Stellenbosch cannot function properly** and day to day management is under threat. Furthermore, there is a real risk that development applications cannot be approved in Stellenbosch because the required infrastructure to support future development is inadequate”*

*In pursuit of urban socio-technical transitions, **how is it**
that urban actors learn, particularly as they engage within
a **facilitated ‘learning agora’**, supported by
transdisciplinary research efforts that serve to enrich
their understandings in way that reinforce multi-level
learning processes?*



Developing a unique transitions perspective

Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.



Space, intermediaries & learning in sustainability transitions

Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.



A framework of urban learning

Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.

Framework of urban learning

The Learning
City

Transition
Management

Urban
Assemblage

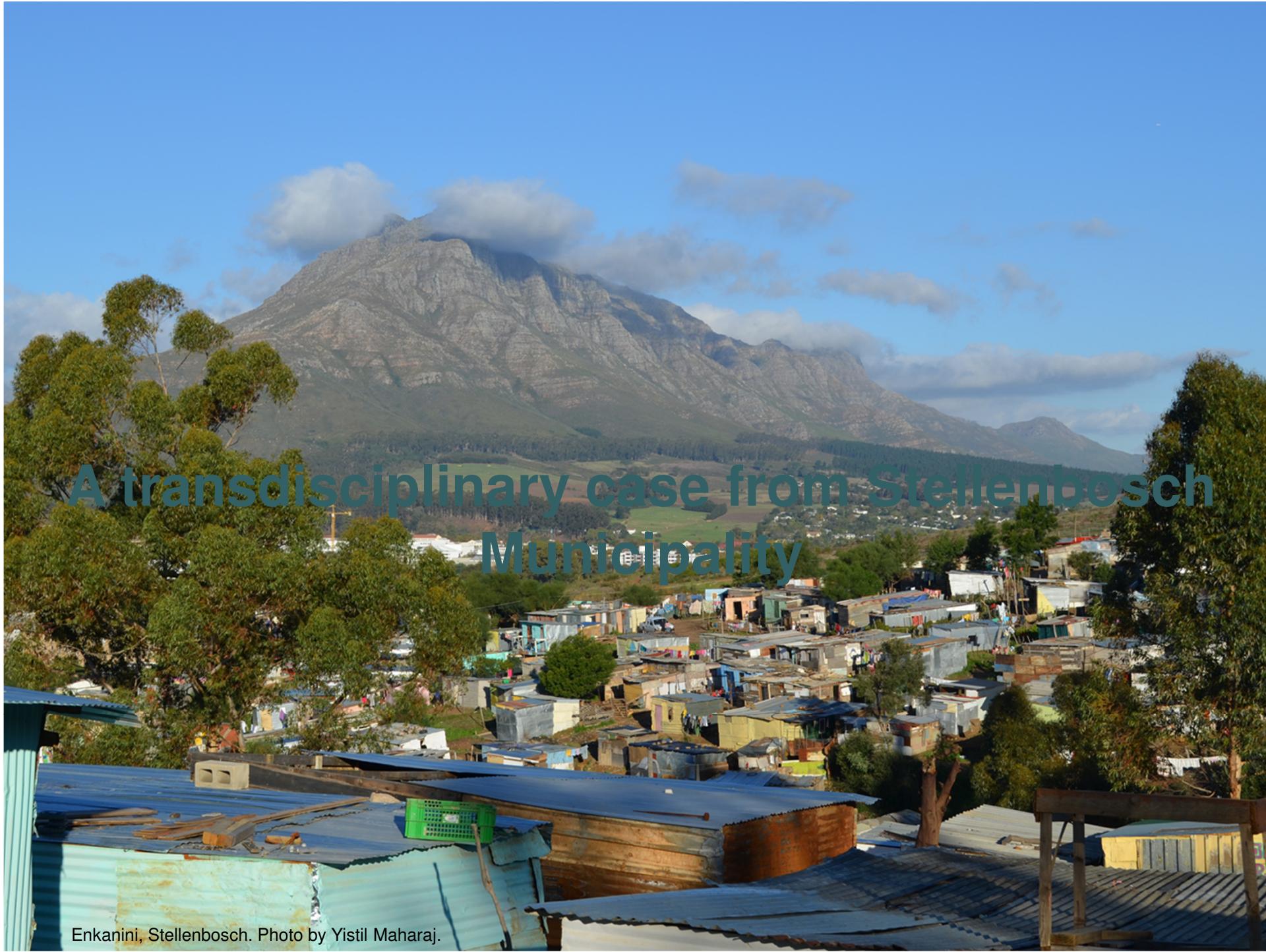


Transdisciplinary research at Stellenbosch University

Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.

Collaboration underpinned by transdisciplinary research

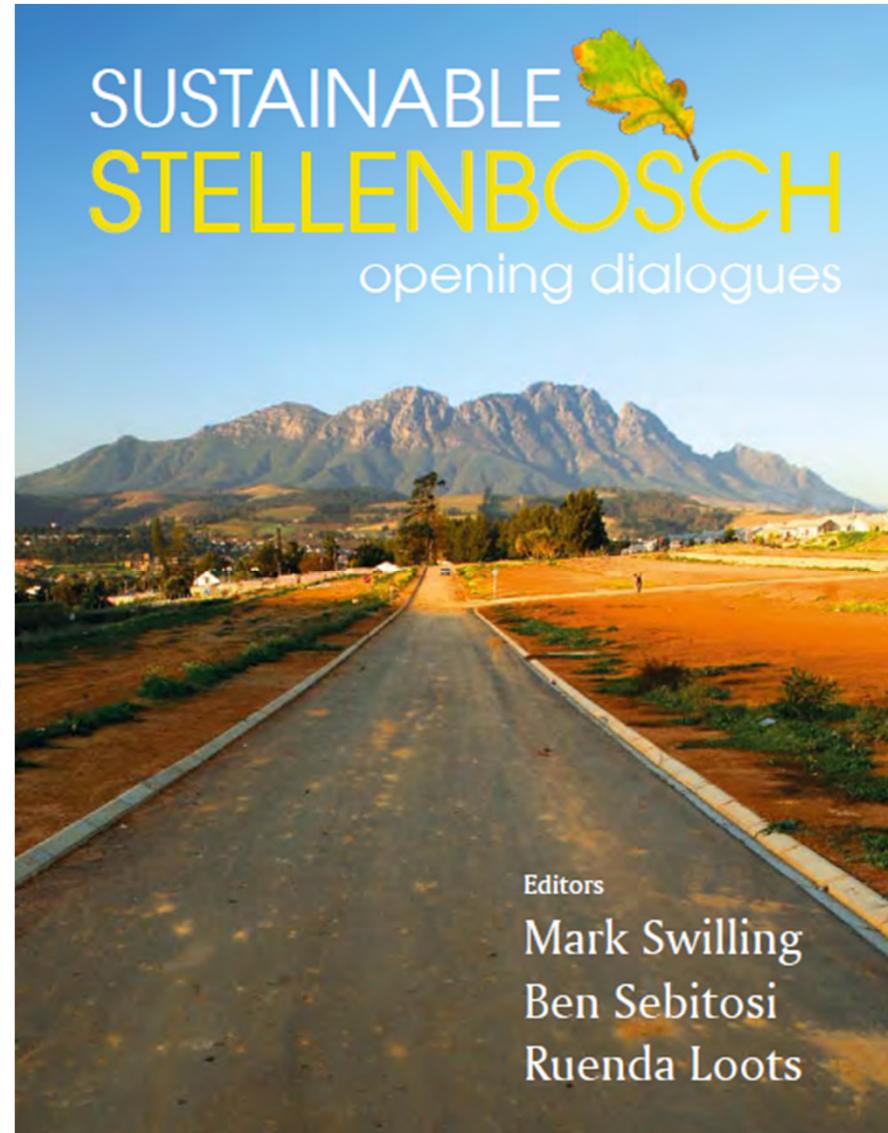
- Unique and progressive research approach based on notion of **joint problem structuring** and **knowledge coproduction**
- Opportunity for researchers to become **embedded** in real world situations, responding to problems arising from context
- TD emphasises **relationship building** and a mode of learning that has transformative impacts in society
- Conventional research is often extractive
- Knowledge that is **scientifically and socially robust**—
useful
 - Systems knowledge: what's happening now?
 - Target knowledge: where/what do we want to move towards?



A transdisciplinary case from Stellenbosch Municipality

Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.

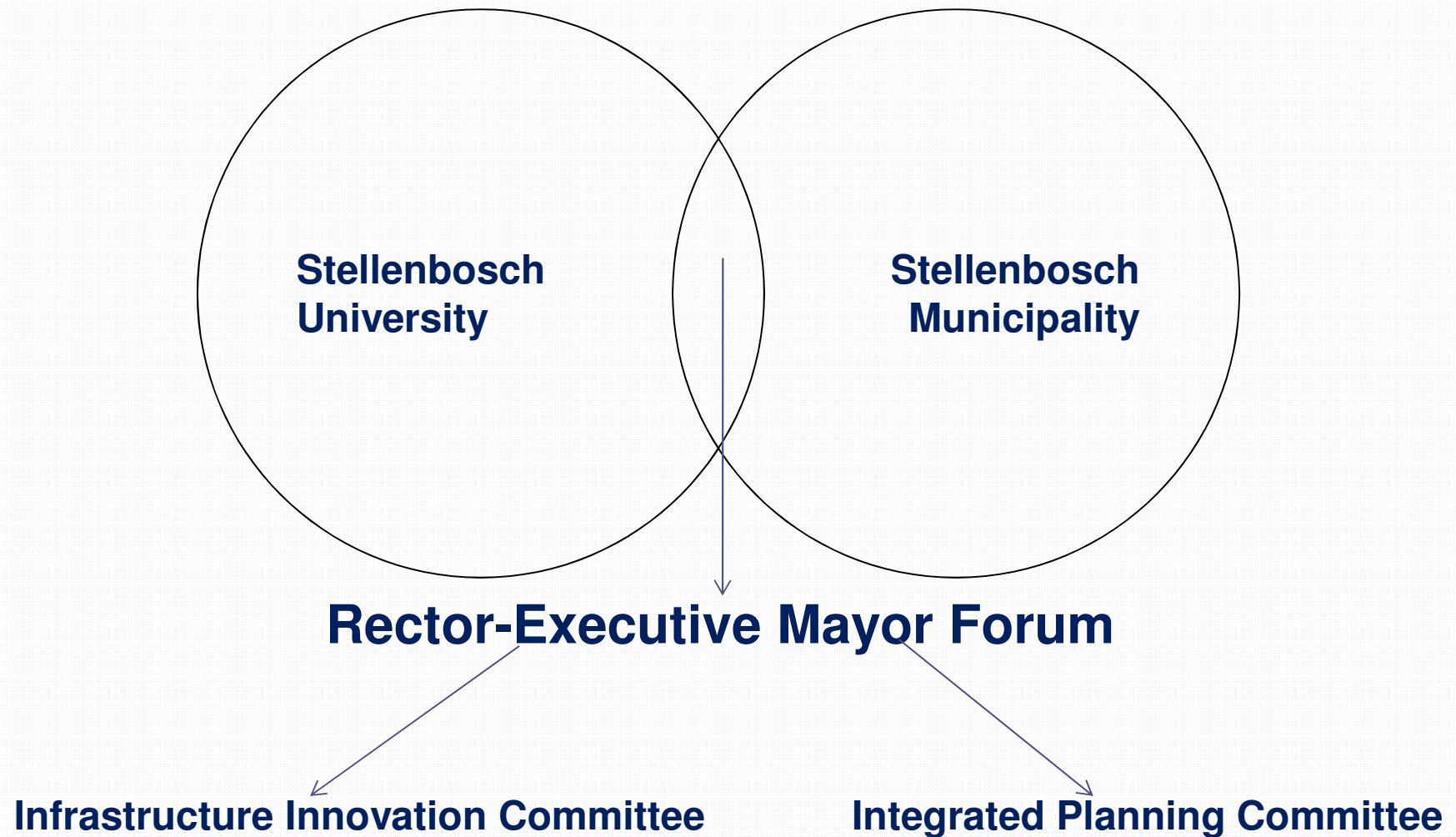
Towards collaborative governance



Towards collaborative governance

- Primary research objective: become an **embedded researcher**
- Careful listening, relationship- and trust-building, active participation in a **messy, complex, real world process**
- Securing access and '**becoming indispensable**'
- **Articulating** the joint understanding of the problem and **translating** this into a research question
- **Process-oriented** research question—how it unfolded, benefits, challenges, lessons
- A '**coming-together**' of researchers and officials to jointly address shared problems in an intermediation space that is simultaneously suspended and embedded
- Building a **culture**—continuity of contact

Innovative institutional arrangements



Infrastructure Innovation Committee

- Transition from Strategic Infrastructure Task Team to IIC
- Initial focus was addressing massive infrastructure backlogs
- Realisation in early 2014—cannot make decisions about infrastructure without an overarching vision of Stellenbosch's future development that is grounded in a **spatial reality**
- Quo Vadis internal document—**building a shared vision of the future; transit-oriented development; informed by MSDF**
- Resulted in unprecedented levels of cooperation and collaboration within SM and between SU/SM
- Working Groups—towards a Strategic Infrastructure Plan







Integrated Planning Committee

- Closely connected to IIC, but has a strong focus on planning within Stellenbosch town
- Forum within which collaboration between SU and SM planners taking place—trust and relationship building and recent progress made in informal workshop discussions
- **Shaping Stellenbosch—Stellenbosch Spatial Development Framework** (10 months of conversations)
 - SAG expert process facilitated by decision support (Eidos) to capture the logic and thinking
 - Public campaign built on appreciative inquiry to gather people's positive ideas and visions for the future of the town
- Unique, innovative and participatory approach to spatial planning
- Captured in the ***vision—compact, inclusive and sustainable town***











A spatial planning initiative of **Stellenbosch Municipality**

WELGEVONDEN

HOW COULD OPEN PIECES OF LAND BE BETTER USED?

WHAT FACILITIES ARE NEEDED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

HOW COULD PUBLIC TRANSPORT BE IMPROVED IN OUR TOWN?

SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR THE STELLENBOSCH TOWN PLAN!

There are 2 ways to send your ideas to Stellenbosch Municipality:

- 1 Visit the Shaping Stellenbosch website at shapingstellenbosch.co.za, click "Your idea", register, and fill in an online form
- OR
- 2 Visit your nearest library, complete a form by hand, and post it in the box at the library.

Make sure that your ideas address *at least one* of the 7 guiding principles of the campaign (see website or form for more details). All ideas will be considered by Stellenbosch Municipality, and those ideas that best meet the campaign's goals will be incorporated into the long-term plans for the growth of Stellenbosch town.

To find out more about Shaping Stellenbosch in English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa, visit shapingstellenbosch.co.za. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at admin@shapingstellenbosch.co.za

@ShapingStellies and #ShapingStellies
[facebook.com/ShapingStellenbosch](https://www.facebook.com/ShapingStellenbosch)

Please note that Shaping Stellenbosch is focused on **Stellenbosch town only**. This includes Brandwacht, Central Stellenbosch, Cloetesville, Dalsig, De Zalze, Devon Valley, Die Boord, Enkanini, Idas Valley, Jamestown, Karindal, Kayamandi, Krigeville, Mostertshof, OnderPapegaaberg, Paradyskloof, Plankenbrug, Rozendal, Simonswyk, Stellenbosch University Campus, Techno Park and Welgevonden Estate.

A spatial planning initiative of Stellenbosch Municipality

www.shapingstellenbosch.co.za



ZINGASETYENZISA
NGCONO NJANI
IINDAWANA
EZINOMHLABA ONGA-
SETYENZISWANGA?

NGAWAPHI
AMAZIKO
AFUNEKAYO
KWINDAWO
OHLALA KUYO?

ZINGAPHUCULWA
NJANI IZITHUTHI
ZIKAWONKE-WONKE
Kwidolophu
YETHU?

**SINIKE AMACEBISO UKUZE SAKHE
IDOLOPHU YASESTELLENBOSCH!**

Zi-2 iindlela zokuthumela iingcebiso zakho kuMasipala waseStellenbosch:
 1 Yiya kwiebhuisayithi yeshaping Stellenbosch ku-shapingstellenbosch.co.za,
ucufe "Uluvo Iwakho", ubhalise uze uzalise iformu ekwikhompyutha
OKANYE
 2 Uye kwihlala ekwihlala leencwadi.
Qiniseka ukuba iingcebiso zakho zigwalasela malunga nomnye kwimithetho-sise
esibokelayo es-7 yeli phulo (jonga iwebhusayithi okanye iformu ukuba ufuna ezinye
ngesiNgesi, isiBhulu okanye isiKhosa, ipya k u-shapingstellenbosch.co.za. Ukuba unyo nayiphi na
imibuso, nceda usithumelele i-meyile
ku-admin@shapingstellenbosch.co.za

Ukuze wazi ngikumbi ngiShaping Stellenbosch
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imibuso, nceda usithumelele i-meyile
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[facebook.com/ShapingStellenbosch](https://www.facebook.com/ShapingStellenbosch)

Nceda usaphake ukuba iingcebiso zakho inkla ingawawela
kwidolophu yeshaping Stellenbosch kaputha. Ouk kaputha (Brandwacht, Central Stellenbosch, Cloetesville, Dalsig, De Zalze, Devon Valley, Die Boord, Enkanini, Idas Valley, Jamestown, Karindal, Kayamandi, Krigeville, Mostertshof, OnderPapegaaberg, Paradyskloof, Plankenbrug, Rozendal, Simonswyk, Stellenbosch University Campus, Techno Park en Welgevonden Estate).

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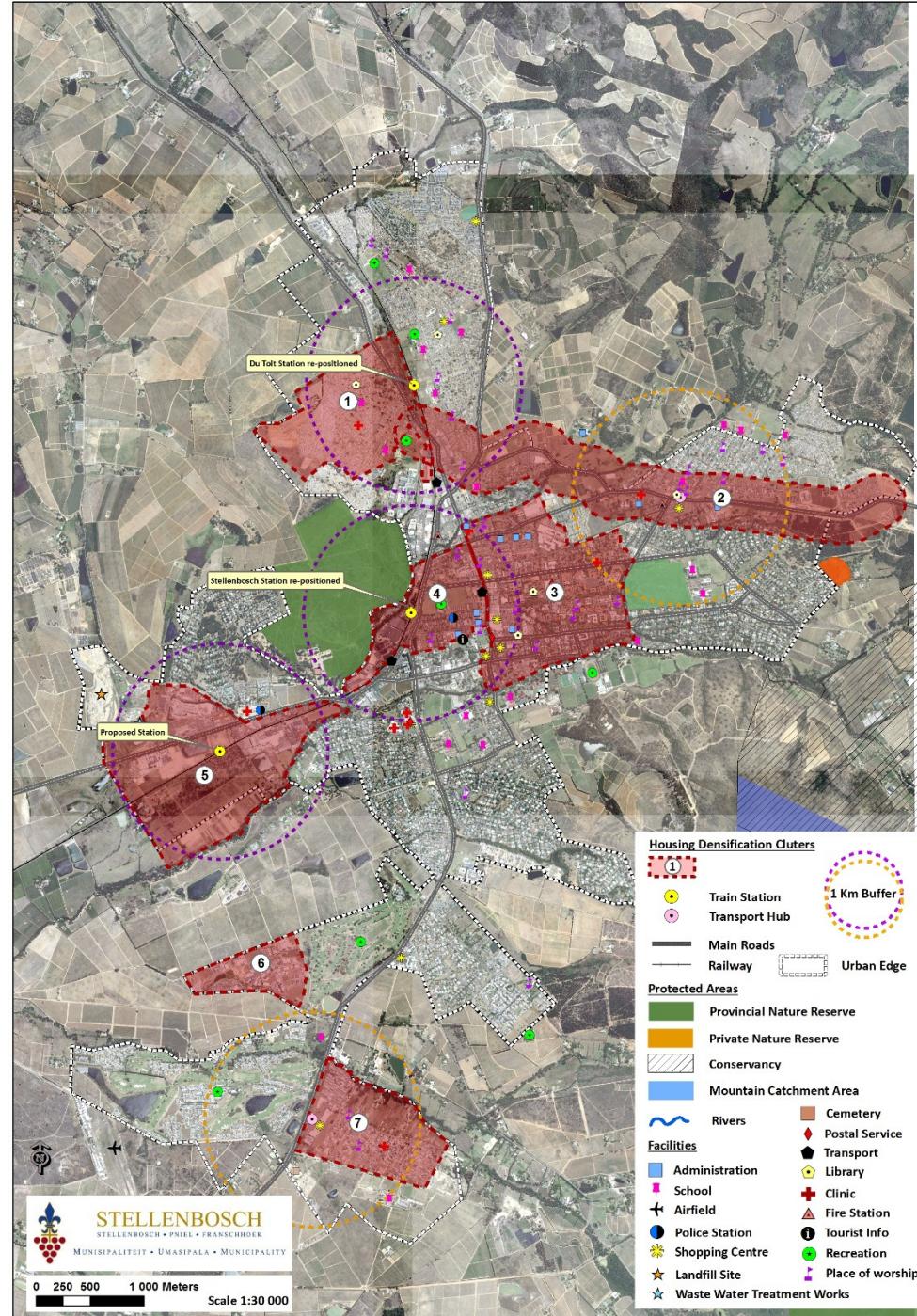














Reflections on learning

Enkanini, Stellenbosch. Photo by Yistil Maharaj.

(Some of many) Challenges

- Short political cycles limit the planning horizon—IDP's are five year strategies
- *How to embed a binding, agreed and transformative long term vision of the future?*
- Lack of integrated planning and coordination—municipality operates in siloes and doesn't collaborate much
- *How to achieve more meaningful integration both within government and between government levels, private sector, civil society etc?*
- Informal committee has allowed independence but are susceptible to politics
- *How to create legitimate spaces where strategic and innovative thinking can be done in a committed and consistent manner?*

(Some of many) Lessons

- Embedded action research is **tough**—requires patience, persistence and an ability to cope with uncertainty, but rewarding, unexpected
- **Managing expectations** must be high on the agenda—honesty, transparency and sincerity of interactions is critical
- Achieving real change takes a **long, long, long** time—champions need to keep at it, students as animators
- **Partnerships** are key as is meaningful participation—diversity ensures more robust and representative options / ideas
- **Talking** is important—people need to hear each other out, mediating perspectives is critical to generating shared understanding (not consensus)
- Transformation does not happen in a vacuum—needs to be **thrashed out in a messy, political real world**

From an embedded researcher's vantage point...

...I hope to leave with better questions, not solutions or answers.

