

Municipal Safety Case Studies Project

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# Sustainable urban development always relies on integration and collaboration

**KwaDukuza Urban Regeneration**

KWAZULU-NATAL

CASE STUDY



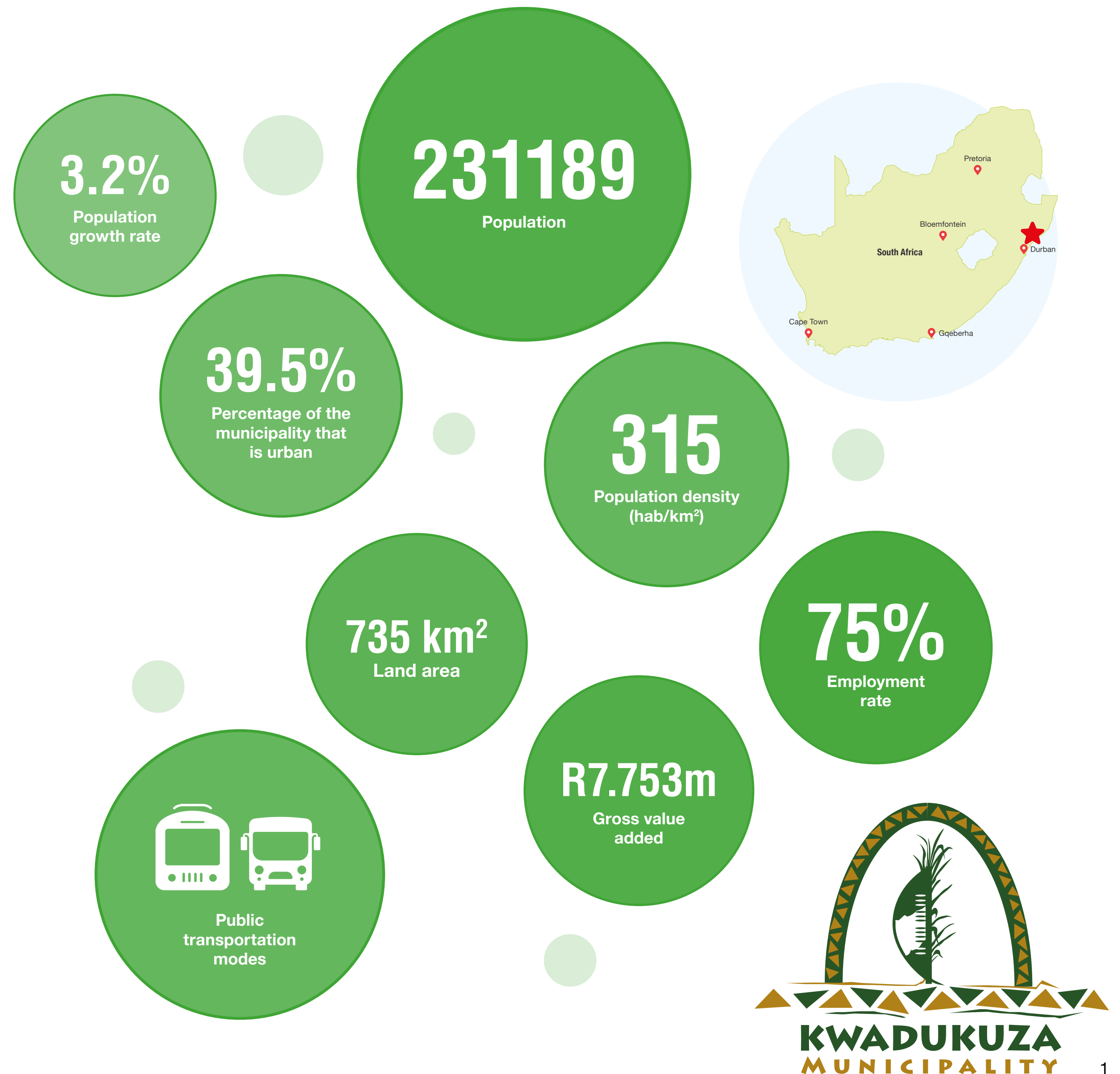
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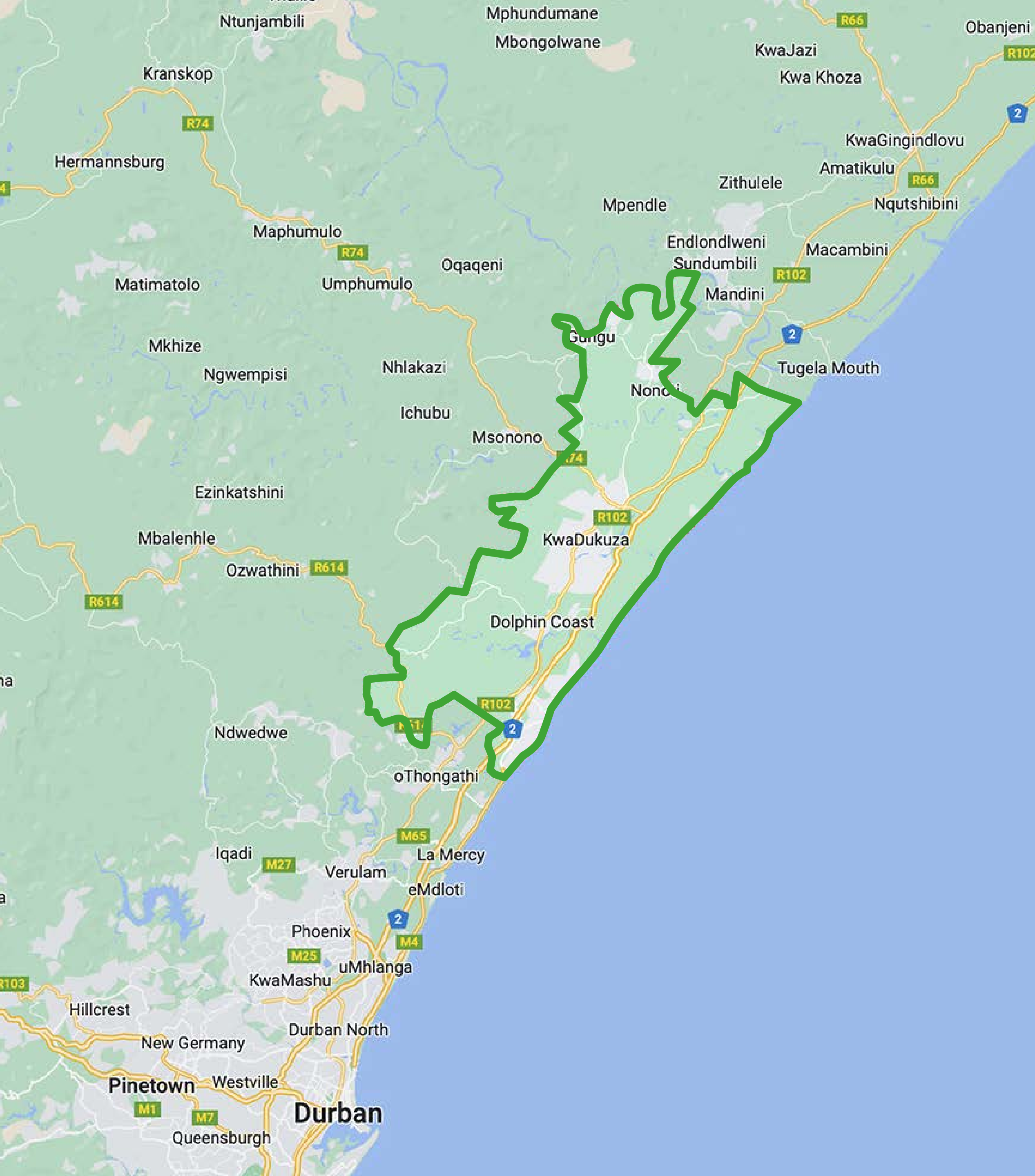




# KwaDukuza Urban Regeneration

Systemic transformation of cities is only visible and effective in highly localised spaces. A twenty-year vision can only be implemented in incremental steps, including the development of strategies, the formation of partnerships, the allocation of budgets and the transformation of individual spaces. It likewise takes a big vision for a city to sustainably achieve localised place making. Without a multi-faceted approach, individual interventions will not be sustainable and will not contribute to systemic transformation, as they will be overpowered by prevailing social challenges in underperforming environments. Highly localised and big picture planning go hand-in-hand. Changing a small local space to reflect the needs of community members generates impact that is visible, aligned to tested principles of community development and urban safety, and offers city dwellers direct benefits while exemplifying a much grander process of change.





KwaDukuza Municipality is situated north of eThekweni in KZN. It is a complex and diverse environment. It includes high end tourism and residential coastal areas, a series of small inland town centres, large areas of sugarcane farming, and is growing into a small conurbation around the City of KwaDukuza. The area has a rich and important history. The area encompasses the new municipal capital established by King Shaka around 1820, which was incorporated as Stanger town at the centre of the burgeoning sugar industry by Liege Hulett in 1873, as well as Groutville, the birthplace of Albert Luthuli in 1898.

In 2006, the City's name was changed to KwaDukuza and the municipality adopted a **City Vision 2030**, a grand and ambitious vision of a thriving hub for local commerce and development. The vision was divided into 5-year terms, laying the foundation for different programmes taking incremental steps towards the shared long-term goals.

“If we know where we are going in thirty years, all the steps we take now, even if they are small, will take us in the right direction. This vision has offered the city a collective set of goals and a clear idea of where we have a role to play, it has made it possible for us to work together.

- Londiwe Kathi, Economic Development and Planning, KwaDukuza



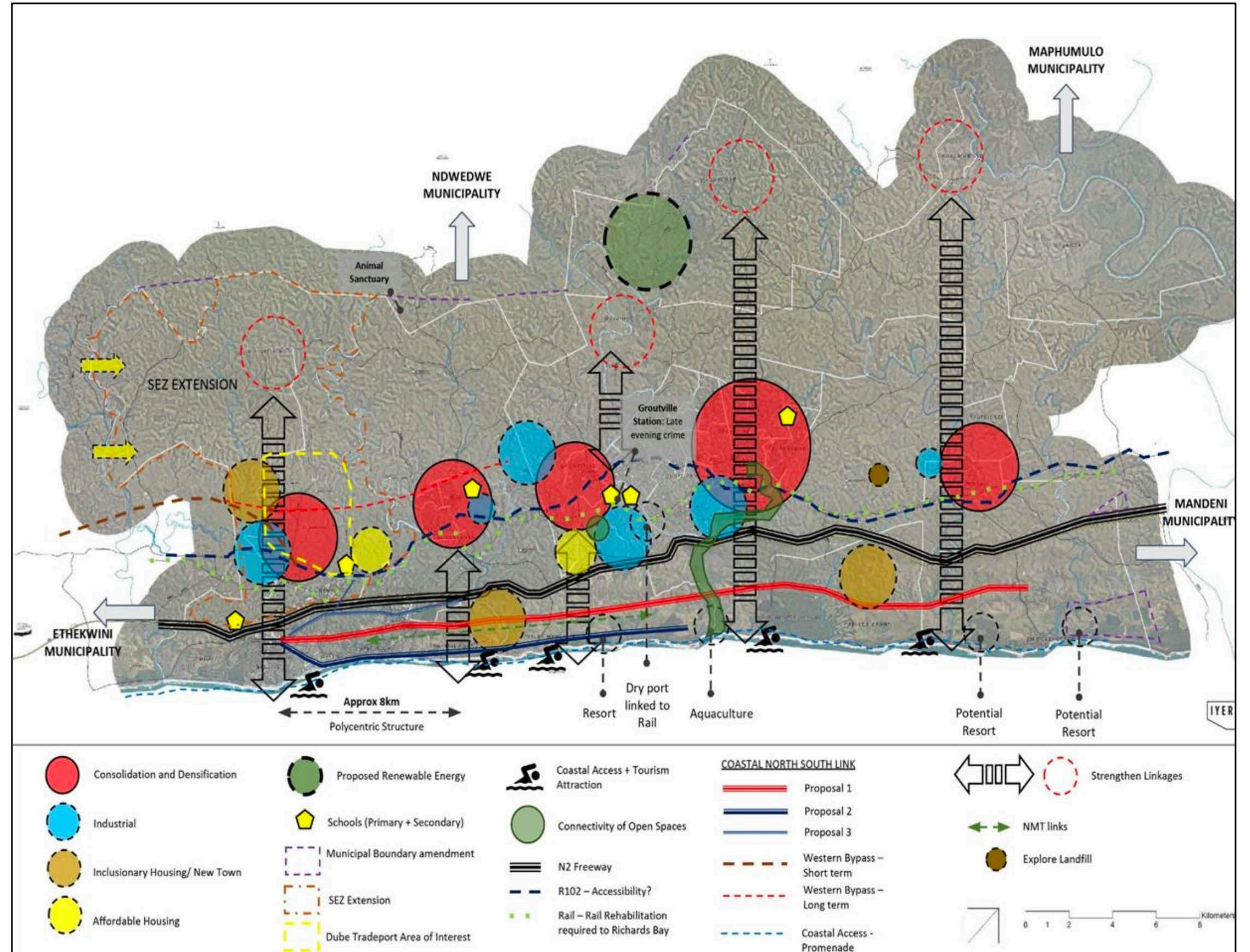
## 2023 Vision

The 2023 Vision is evident in various strategies which have been developed and adopted in the period since 2006 to give effect to it:

- **Various IDPs,**
- **The Spatial Development Framework,**
- **The Conceptual Corridor Framework,**
- **The City Development Strategy,**
- **The Climate Change Response Strategy**
- **And the Urban and CBD Regeneration Strategies.**

These strategies address the economic, governance, sustainability, community cohesion and participation and spatial implications and implementation of the vision.

The implementation of the 2023 Vision is currently focused in the CBD regeneration strategy, which gives life to a series of projects aimed at refurbishment of deteriorating infrastructure, pedestrianisation and leveraging the history of KwaDukuza to create cohesion and promote tourism. The project is championed in the office of the municipal manager and is transversally managed through a steering committee.





# KwaDukuza People's Park

In 2021 the KwaDukuza People's Park was opened near to the centre of KwaDukuza and this park serves in this case study as an exemplifier of the work done by the City during recent years to move towards that vision.

## Co-design process:

An inclusive consultation process allowed for co-design for a safe space to promote community cohesion and leisure spaces for a wide range of users.



The People's Park is 2,6 hectares of space which was previously open and undeveloped and informally used for parking cars, drinking alcohol and playing loud music. During 2019 the municipality conducted a survey in the area and discovered that residents of the surrounding areas felt the need for a safe leisure space for families and others, with access to toilets and other amenities. The Community Services and Public Amenities unit designed and implemented the People's Park in response.



# Dialogues for Urban Change Living Labs

Liveable neighbourhoods, safe and accessible public spaces

“What we are trying to do is integrate safety into all municipal interventions. When we deliver a physical infrastructure project safety should always underpin vision, planning design.

– Siyabonga Khanyile, Community Services and Public Amenities, KwaDukuza



KwaDukuza is one of four South African cities that joined the Dialogues for Urban Change (D4UC) peer learning network facilitated by the GIZ global project D4UC in collaboration with VCP. The three other South African cities are: uMhlathuze Municipality, Stellenbosch Municipality and Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, as well as four German cities: Bottrop, Ludwigsburg, Karlsruhe and Nürnberg. Apart from the cities, the network is supported by national stakeholders to amplify and support institutionalisation such as DCOG, SALGA, DHS and NT in South Africa and through the German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building in Germany. The peer-to-peer learning network aims at generating new thinking on integrated urban development towards a city as a common good in line with the principles of South Africa's urban development policy, the Integrated Urban Development Framework, with a specific focus towards an equitable access and use of safe and liveable public spaces.

During the learning exchange, the **People's Park Safety Survey** was conceived. The survey was conducted by young graduates resident in KwaDukuza, and surveyed 408 park users, on questions relating to women's and children's experiences and perceptions of safety and social cohesion in the park. The purpose of the survey was to 'gain actionable insights', to understand the context and usage of the park and other public spaces and improve the reliability of planning data for this and future projects. The survey placed an explicit value on the intuitive knowledge of users, prioritising it over statistical data. The survey, like the assessment which came before the redevelopment of the park, gave users the opportunity to articulate their needs and desires for the space. These included a skateboard ramp or basketball court for children of 12 – 15 years of age, currently not directly catered for in the play equipment available. The survey also demonstrated that while many users understand safety to be a joint responsibility of the municipality and the community, there is an expectation that private security is needed if users are to feel safe. This suggests that community-wide communication might be useful, to promote the value of social cohesion and community participation making public spaces safe.

## The survey found:

- Most survey respondents were between the age 18 – 25 years.
- Over 50% of respondents shared that they use the park to relax/chill demonstrating the value of prosocial public spaces.
- Respondents were concerned about the number of taps available in the park and raised the need to maintain those taps.
- The majority of respondents feel safe in the park, and in many instances this was attributed to the presence of security guards.
- Respondents feel that the design of the park has a huge impact on the state of safety in the park.
- Very few respondents have ever witnessed or experienced any form of violence in the park.





# Open Streets

In an effort to build shared ownership and trust in the underlying principles of the urban regeneration plan, KwaDukuza began hosting an annual *Open Streets* event in 2021.



This event brings together a number of aspects of the 2030 Vision and associated strategies:

## Community cohesion

- Bringing citizens together across spatial, economic and cultural barriers
- Inviting participation of community members by creating interactive boards for commentary on the CBD Regeneration Project

## Climate change mitigation

- Linked to world environment day – creating awareness about climate change and the global environmental crisis
- Non-motorised transport
- Recycling initiatives in the City
- Non-motorised transport as a tool for achieving climate change mitigation, improved mobility in the City, reduced congestion
- Climate change work towards a low-carbon city is led in KwaDukuza by the Economic Development and Planning unit and guided by a Climate Change Response Strategy. The strategy takes a long-term view with objectives identified for 2050 and beyond, outlining mitigation actions in the areas of water, agriculture, human settlements, waste, energy, transport, business and governance and outlines the capacity that needs to be built to achieve these.

## Urban regeneration

- Showcasing the regeneration strategy with a pop-up installation
- Testing the CBD regeneration concept of turning King Shaka Street into a car-free zone.

“Urban safety, Gender-Based Violence, and environmental awareness are cross-cutting issues that require collaboration. They are all driven by the overarching objective of sustainable community well-being, they are mutually supporting, and they all rely on a sense of place and participation in defining and managing space among community members and users of space.

– Mbali Mpanza, *Economic Development and Planning, KwaDukuza*

This participation requires behaviour change interventions to empower citizens to see their role and to keep spaces safe and clean, and to hold others accountable to do the same. The Open Streets event is a step towards achieving all of these mutually dependent and complex objectives.

**WATCH THE OPEN STREETS VIDEO →**



# The CBD Regeneration Plan

The **CBD Regeneration Plan** was adopted in 2021, and is founded on principles of effective leadership, integrated planning and community participation. Its implementation is supported by the Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG) and the National Treasury Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant (NDPG). They are championed in the office of the Municipal Manager, which has established a Special Projects Task Team, which in turn leads technical and project and area-based management teams.

The plans are driven by the 2030 Vision and designed to respond to urban unsafety, deteriorating public infrastructure, illegal activities and inadequate poor policing and by-law enforcement, traffic congestion, and unregulated and disruptive informal trading in the urban centres. They are designed to facilitate economic growth through investment, to cater for social and community needs and to promote cohesion, through the improvement of the quality and functionality of the public environment and the promotion of improved maintenance and service delivery, infrastructure, local economy (including informal), accessibility and transport, pedestrianisation, ‘green systems’, and tourism. They provide an institutional, financial, economic and spatial platform for a safer, more inclusive, economically and environmentally sustainable conurbation. The current plans are to rehabilitate services, resurface roads, repair stormwater infrastructure, construct sidewalks, improve urban design infrastructure including lights, plants, bins, bollards, benches and informal traders’ stalls.

## Community Safety Plan

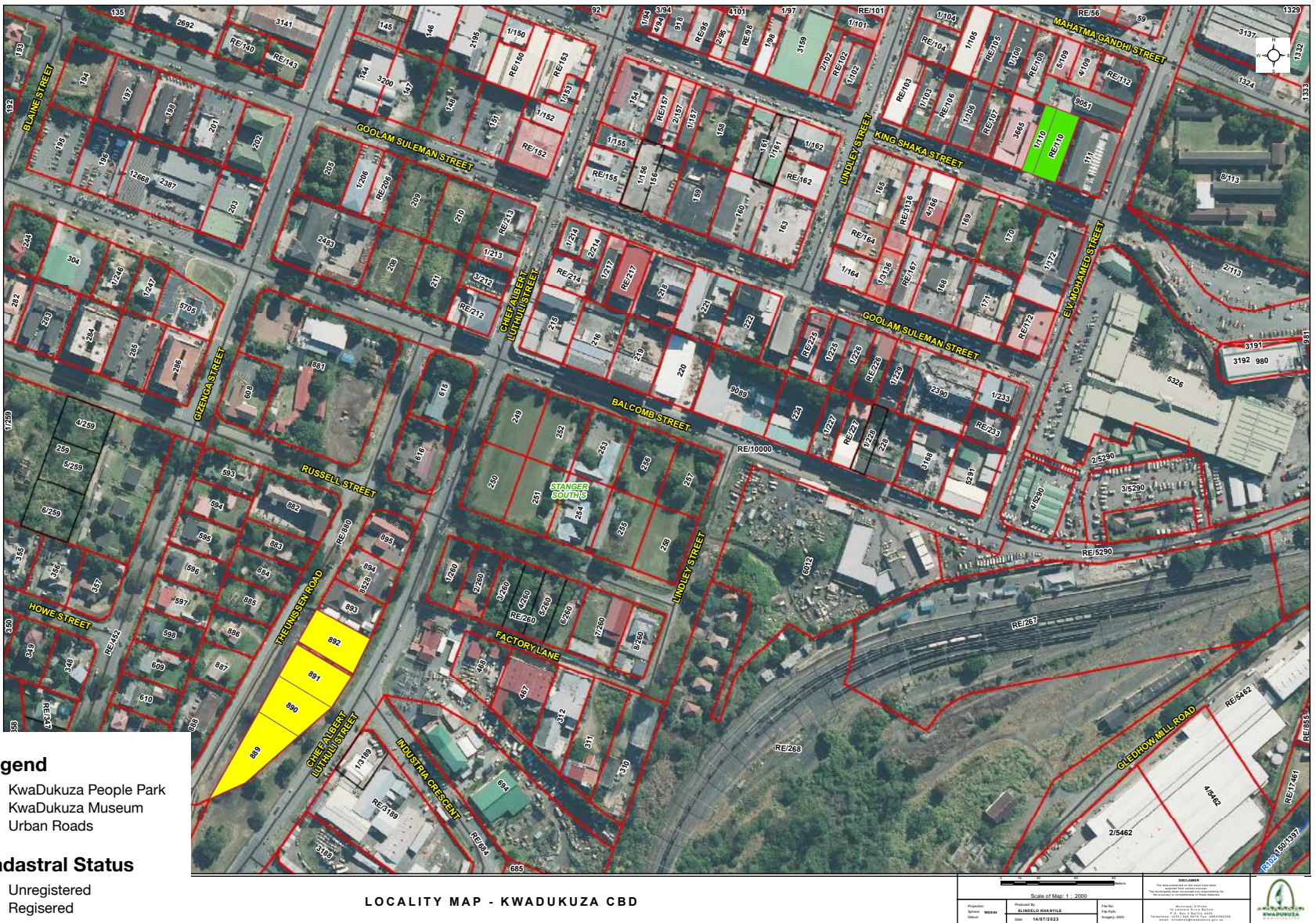
To strengthen the 2023 Vision and its associated strategies, the City has identified the development of a Community Safety Plan as a current priority. This plan will support the sustainability of the regeneration work, and promote safe and inclusive public spaces, aligned to the principles of **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design**, including shared accountability for public safety amongst a diverse group of role players.

## King Shaka Street

The Open Streets event tested the current proposal to redevelop and pedestrianise King Shaka Street in the centre of the CBD, to make this area conducive to non-motorised transport, to create community cohesion and safety, and to promote a less congested and more environmentally friendly CBD. This redevelopment will include increased paving, outdoor furniture and trading spaces.

## KwaDukuza Museum

The KwaDukuza Museum, also in the CBD, has been refurbished to showcase the history of the area and to support the programme to increase tourism to KwaDukuza.





# Conclusion

Placemaking is a generous tool in the implementation of city safety and urban development strategies. While it reflects all the complexity of creating change in the city landscape and the perceptions of users, it also offers a contained, visible and tangible outcome that speaks of delivery and responsiveness to community needs. Prosocial public space offers users a new way to respond – to the place, to one another and to their need for relaxation and valuable family time. It provides for individuals to be at leisure alongside groups, with users of all ages responding to behavioural prompts that come with well-designed space.

## Glossary/Acronyms

**KZN:** KwaZulu Natal

**IDPs:**

**CBD:** Central Business District

**OSF:**

**D4UC:** Dialogues for Urban Change

**VCP:** Inclusive Violence & Crime Prevention

**SALGA:** South African Local Government Association

**DHS:** Department of Human Settlements

**NT:** National Treasury

**IUDG:** Integrated Urban Development Grant

**NDPG:** National Treasury Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant



## Contact details

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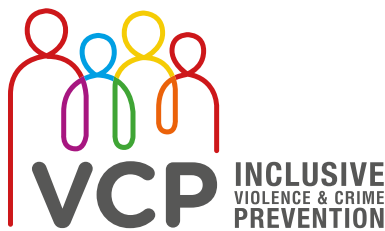
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