HERITAGE RESOURCES CONSERVATION - AN OVERVIEW

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Heritage Western Cape
Structure

• Eleven professional staff and administrative support unit
• A Council and four committees
  – Built Environment and Landscapes
  – Impact Assessment Committee
  – Archaeology and Palaeontology
  – Appeals
Workload

• +2 000 applications dealt with in 2011/12
• In 2010/11 85% of applications come from within the Cape Town Metro
• 9 appeals heard in 2011
• No new Tribunal matters in 2011
• Cost to Provincial Government per application in 2010 = R3 464
• ±70 committee meetings per annum
Work Method

• Two teams (Architect, Town Planner, Historian and Archaeologist) prepare applications
• Weekly meetings with management to present recommendations
• ±50% of applications processed weekly by staff
• ±50% of applications presented to monthly Wednesday meeting of relevant committee
• Minimum turnaround time 14 days
  Maximum 47 days
The National Heritage Resources Act of 1999

NHRA
Getting the Terminology for Formal Protections Right

- World Heritage Site
- National Heritage Site
- Provincial Heritage Site
  (former national monuments)
- Register
- Heritage Area
Understanding the General Protections

- 60 year old structures
- Archaeology
- Graves
- Public monuments and memorials
- Impact Assessment
Understanding the Grading System

• Grade I (national competency)
• Grade II (provincial competency)
• Grade III (potentially local competency)
• Sub-divisions of Grade III
Heritage Conservation vs Development in the NHRA

- Potentially minimises threats development poses via system of pre-identification and integration with the planning system (inventories and heritage areas)
- Places heritage resources authorities between community interests in heritage and the need for development and change
Heritage and the Planning System

- NHRA provides for Heritage Areas
- Incorporates all of the heritage in a particular area within a clearly identified and known boundary
- Provides a set of conservation guidelines purpose designed for the area in question
- Governs conservation of historic sites and structures as well as ensuring appropriate new construction
Steps required

• SDF/Zoning Scheme -
  • NHRA requires that heritage be identified at this phase
  • An updated inventory of heritage resources (Survey)
• Mapping of inventory
• Determination of boundaries of heritage areas
• Compilation of guidelines for conservation and new construction
• Regular review and updating
Responsibilities of Local Government

- Must ensure that inventory, mapping and guidelines are generated as part of the municipal planning processes.
- Submit relevant document to HWC for approval.
- Update on a regular basis.
- May be devolved powers to manage local heritage if it can demonstrate capacity.
Trends in Heritage Conservation
The Past 150 Years

• Conservation of individual iconic sites ie: Monumentalisation (19th & early 20th Centuries)
• Conservation of environments (1930s-)
• Conservation of sites with intangible values (1990s -)
• Post 1994 South Africa:
  – Conservation at the appropriate level of government
  – Creating social cohesion/inclusion
Contemporary Debate

• Authenticity: Is the state of the heritage resource true to the past or is it conjectural or imagined?
• Integrity: To what extent does the heritage resource remain intact?
• Tolerance for Change: Which values are key to retaining the character of a site in the face of development?
Crucial Questions

- Is heritage conservation relevant in our society?
- Should heritage conservation be development friendly and if so how?
- Should special allowance be made for heritage conservation?
- What are the major threats to heritage conservation?
The role of conservation bodies

- A positive community voice for heritage.
- Comment on applications.
- Appeals and tribunals.
- Public advocacy.
- Public participation in planning processes, ie: IDP, SDF processes, etc.
- Assist with surveys and monitoring of implementation of guidelines.
THANK YOU