

Living Beehive: COP17 legacy to Butterfly Habitat Garden







COP17- Durban Dec 2011

- Collaboration between SANBI, eThekwini and Durban Botanic Gardens Trust
- Mid September project started-Trust
- 8 weeks to complete project- SANBI and eThekwini staff







Durban Botanic Gardens Trust



Site preparation began the middle of September 2011 on the original site of an old bowling club.



Zipcore and white batting material Hessian used on the

outside

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The layers go on the roof structure



The Beehive in Her new clothes Mounds being prepared Paving being laid

form

Success Great opportunity for staff to be involved and learn new Horticultural skills in planting, Indigenous plant material and maintenance of the living green walls. Created positive media coverage and lots of inquisitive visitors.



Completed COP 17 Beehive December 2011 showing Carpobrotus cuttings on the roof.

Phase 2- October 2013- Ooops!





How to solve the dilemma?

- 1. Major repairs to strip and re-cover with new material inside and outside for a new Green wall.
- 2. Various options were considered on repairing the outer section
- 3. Remove outer and interior materials and grow creepers
- 4. Cover with safety glass? Cost too high and weight
- 5. And heat?



Eshowe Butterfly Dome

Phase 3 June 2014



The Start of the Butterfly Habitat Garden

- Metamorphosis begins!
- Journey to Eshowe 3rd June 2014
- Meet Dr Americo Bonkewitzz
- Tour through the Eshowe Butterfly Dome/Photo's
- Meeting date for future plans



Looking for eggs



Caterpillar of *Charaxes* butterfly

Sugar in a month of



Pupae pinned to polystyrene.





African Common White-Male

These butterflies are found in the Dry Bush veld. Host plants include *Capparis* species and *Boscia albitrunca* and *Maerua* species. The females are yellow.



Poster of Butterflies





Viewing Platform





Check facts

- Suppliers of anti-virus net-costs were ascertained
- Presentation submitted to Durban Botanic Gardens Trust
- Conclusion- too expensive and no budget to sustain it's future



Where to from here?

• We were back at square 1.

 With regret we informed Americo we would be unable to undertake the project

Solution!

- Bearing in mind our financial constraints
- Americo suggested an Open Butterfly Habitat Garden and not a closed Dome.
- Result- a plan of action- Americo would be responsible for the Garden over a 6 months full time period with support form the Durban Botanic Gardens staff and infrastructure.

Aims- Create an awareness of Biodiversitythrough education

Blue Pansy on *Justicia betonica*

Aims- Create an awareness of Biodiversity- butterflies



Phase 4- July 2015

Proposed butterfly habitat areas at the DBG

DBG Entrance



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14 main butterfly groups have been chosen.



July 2015



Caterpillar of *Charaxes* butterfly

Most people plant to attract birds. They usually plant fruit or seed attracting plants. In planting for butterflies you are also planting for birds, as they will come to eat the caterpillars.

Newly hatched female of Common Grass Yellow

at Un

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The Wonder of Nature

- People are fascinated with butterflies.
- Places to plant up-
 - Many children do not have the opportunity to interact with Nature. The modern family tends to be "Afraid" of allowing their children to play outside.,
 - Safe Environment where visitors can be guided and assisted.

Blue Pansy on Justicia betonica

Education is the foundation of the future.





In Conclusion

Sustainability Costs Staff needed Practically of project Plan B.