

Urban and rural greening partnerships:

A case study of the Million Trees and Arbor City Awards Programmes.



MIKE MODISE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES -PRETORIA

TELL: 012 309 5787

FAX: 012 309 8939

EMAIL: MICHAELMOD@DAFF.GOV.ZA



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forestry & fisheries**

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Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Outline

- Introduction
- Rationale and Background for the Million Trees Programme
- Definition of greening
- Million Trees Programme statistics for ten yrs
- Study - Million Trees and Arbor City Awards Programmes
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Introduction

Greening is a national function of the Dept of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)

- Greening is the planting, care and management of all vegetation types in urban and rural areas, to secure multiple benefits for residents”(National greening strategy ,2010)
- Targeted areas include: Cities, Towns, townships and informal settlements.
- Greening follows an integrated approach, mainly focusing on parks, streets, open spaces, green belts, cemeteries, as well as homesteads.



Rationale & Background

Greening Initiatives are very crucial, not only for **aesthetical** and **recreational** purposes; but also to address key environmental and socio-economic challenges such as:

- Climate change
- Dessertification
- Food security/insecurity



Rationale and Background cont..

- More than 1 million people depend on trees and forest resources for their livelihood (*WRI,2015*)
- For trees and forests to be relevant in the current political agenda, they need to address the world poverty issues(2013 Report, International Conference for Food Security and Nutrition)
- Green landscapes in settlement areas serve as recreation, spiritual, educational & leisure facilities
- Common sense also tells us that there are several other unquantifiable benefits that humans obtain from their green landscapes



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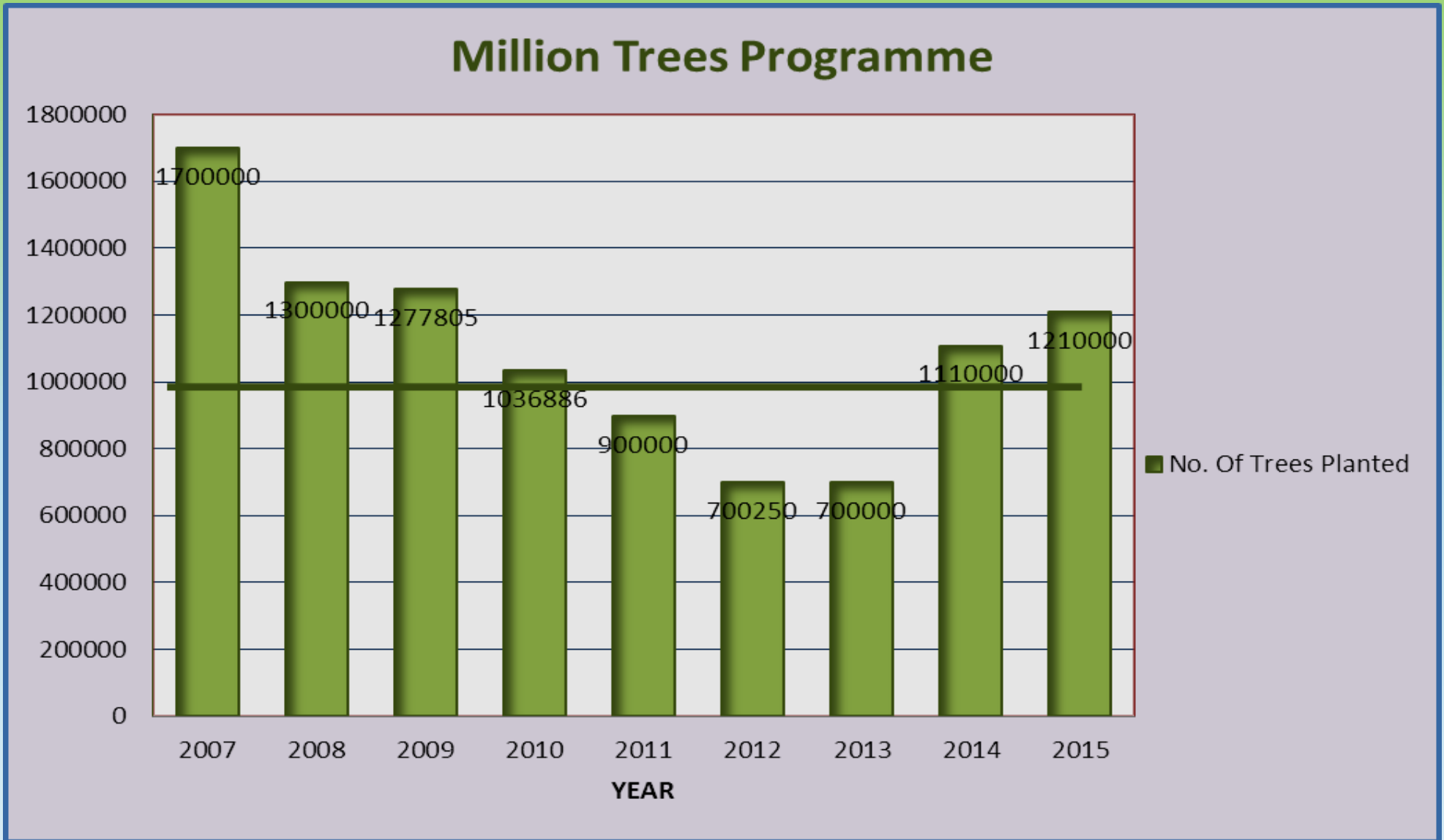
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Million trees Programme

- The Million trees Programme was conceptualised & launched in 2007 in South Africa
- The petroleum company **Total South Africa became & is still the main sponsor of the programme**
- It is implemented as a partnership Gvt depts, Municipalities, NGOS, cooperates and individuals
- It includes various sub programmes eg edu-plant, trees for homes & others
- In order to incentivise it the Arbor City Awards competition was introduced for all municipalities to compete



Figures of trees recorded as planted under the programme



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Assessment of the programmes: A case Study

- The Case Study looked at greening through the million trees programme and provision of incentives through the Arbor City Awards
- It is based on the greening interventions nationally by municipalities and other role players
- **The study aimed to:**
 - » Assess whether the set targets for the greening programme were met
 - » Conduct a qualitative assessment on the impact of the Arbor City Awards Programme as an incentive towards greening South Africa.
 - » Provide a qualitative assessment of the greening partnerships(focussing on Strengths & Weaknesses
 - » Provide recommendations for policy consideration

Questionnaires were sent out & followed – up by telephonic conversations with municipalities

Million trees Programme: Outcomes

Desirable Outcomes Identified:

- International Recognition
- Provided opportunities for programme funding
- Provided a boost for greening projects (**trees for homes & 2010 soccer tournament greening**)
- Created partnerships (**adopt a space or island in towns and cities by companies**)
- **Small and emerging nurseries benefitted** from supplying trees and other plants

But:

- **It needs better coordination**
- **It must be promoted at presidential level to get top level commitment by corporates**
- **It must be seen as one of the carbon off-setting strategies by corporates**



The Arbor City Awards

- It is a Greening Competition for Municipalities that started in 2002
- It is now a national competition run by DAFF
- It is sponsored by Total South Africa
- Main Partners are: IERM & SANBI
- It has three categories namely; Metropolitan, Local Municipality and Rural Municipality Categories

Main Objectives :

- I. To promote the development of provincial and local greening plans
- II. To extend greening in local Municipalities to disadvantaged areas
- III. To ensure compliance with relevant greening legislations
- IV. Raise general awareness about the importance and value of trees in residential settlements



Assessment of the Arbor City Awards

Municipality Participation in the ACA

YEAR	NO. of Municipalities	%
2010	47	20.0
2011	46	19.7
2012	28	12.0
2013	32	13.7
2014	42	17.9
2015	32	13.7
2016	26	11.1



Arbor City Awards: Outcomes

On average, the municipalities that are doing well are in urban areas and their years of participation in the competition range from 3 -10 years respectively

Primary reasons for entering the competition included:

- Recognition
- Showcase of greening interventions
- Climate change mitigation
- Networking
- Political and financial support gains

Undesirables identified :

- Insufficient advertisement of the competition
- Lack of sector leaders to lead research on greening matters in Municipalities; Lack of Partnerships
- Lack of legislation enforcement
- Lack of educational programmes that talk to illegal cutting/ destruction of trees



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Arbor City Awards: Outcomes – cont..

Desirables Identified:

- Generally municipalities were happy with the criteria used to judge
- Generally municipalities that did well had partnerships with the private sector and had women and youth involvement
- There was a great indication from municipalities that winnings will be ploughed back to greening initiatives
- Non-winning municipalities in need of technical support on the development of their greening policies, strategies and programmes.
- The competition adjudication process provided a platform for dialogue, sharing of new ideas and innovations about greening
- Winning municipalities became mentors for other municipalities and assisted them in developing of greening policies, strategies and implementation plans.
- Through the competition DAFF has been able to identify gaps for policy updates, as well as to develop appropriate programmes and tools to assist Municipalities.

LET US PLANT MORE TREES & GREEN THE PLANET

Thank You!!!