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Food insecurity in African cities: The necessity and challenge of food sensitive planning in Cape Town

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- Context
- A good start and firm constraint
- Challenges to governance, challenges of data
- A new set of entry points



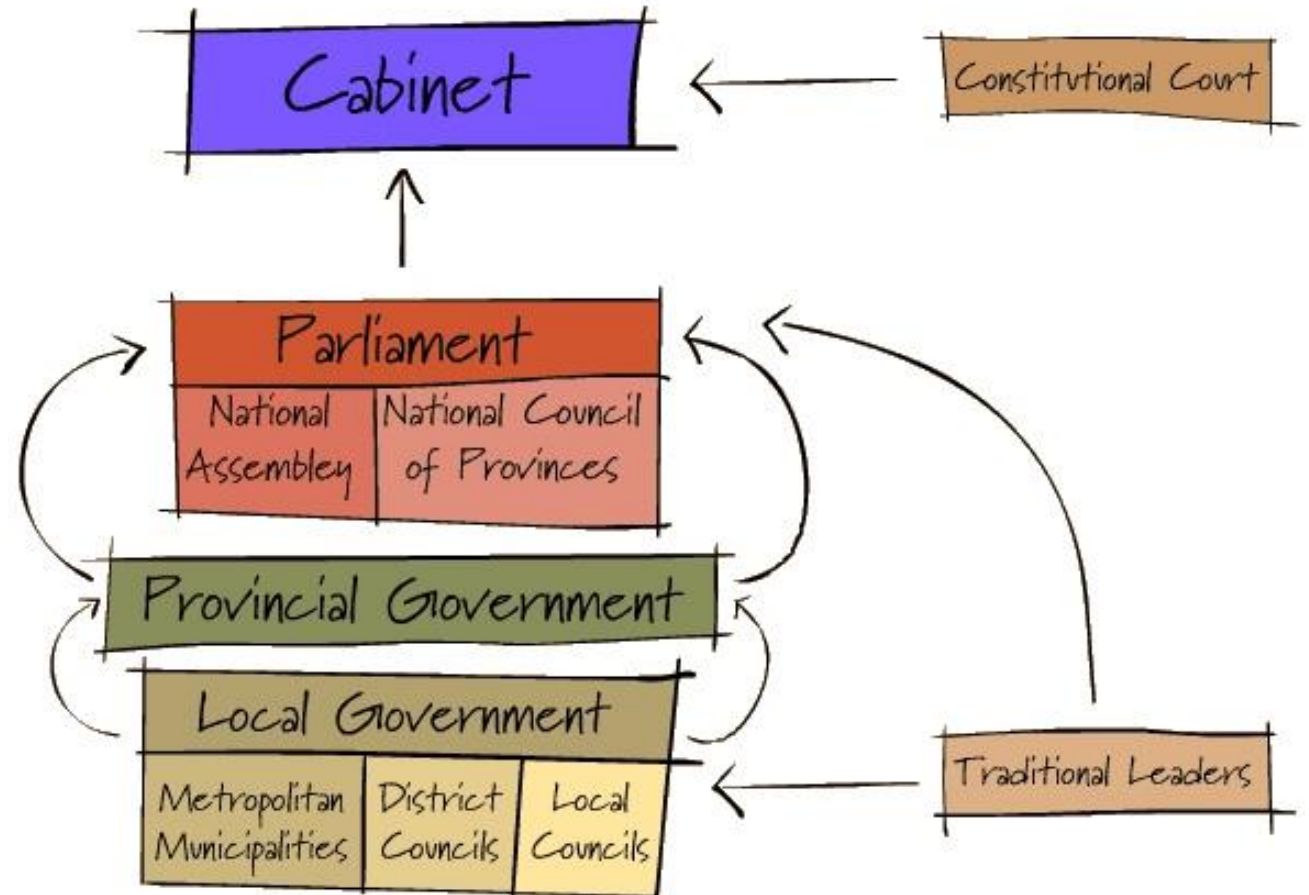
Cape Town

- Population 4 million
- About 60% lack sufficient income to buy “balanced plate of food”
- Beyond income: Macro-geography of city, income precarity, additional urban expenses, utilization issues
- High food insecurity, stunting, diabetes, hypertension, obesity



Cape Town

- SA Constitution guarantees Right to Food
- Right as yet untested
- Food policies locate food security as responsibility of provincial government
- Cape Town and Western Cape governed by opposition



Cape Town: A leader in municipal food policy

- 2007 Urban Agriculture Policy and Urban Agriculture Unit within City.
- RUAF engagement
- Cape Town – Toronto – Mazingira Institute Summits
- Efforts to establish a multi-stakeholder forum
- Formal MOUs with NGO sector
- Draft Revised Urban Agriculture Policy (2013)
- Commissioning of Food System and Food Security Study (2013)

And then the wheels came off...



So, what went wrong?

- “Food Champion” left/was moved.
- More systemic approach proposed hit a political wall: The Philippi Horticultural Area
- Lack of evidence to support claims of UA NGOs
- Lack of community cohesion
- Reduction to food security to a single programme + Lack of clear, direct municipal mandate

Learning from experience, and a changing context:
Moving towards a more systemic approach

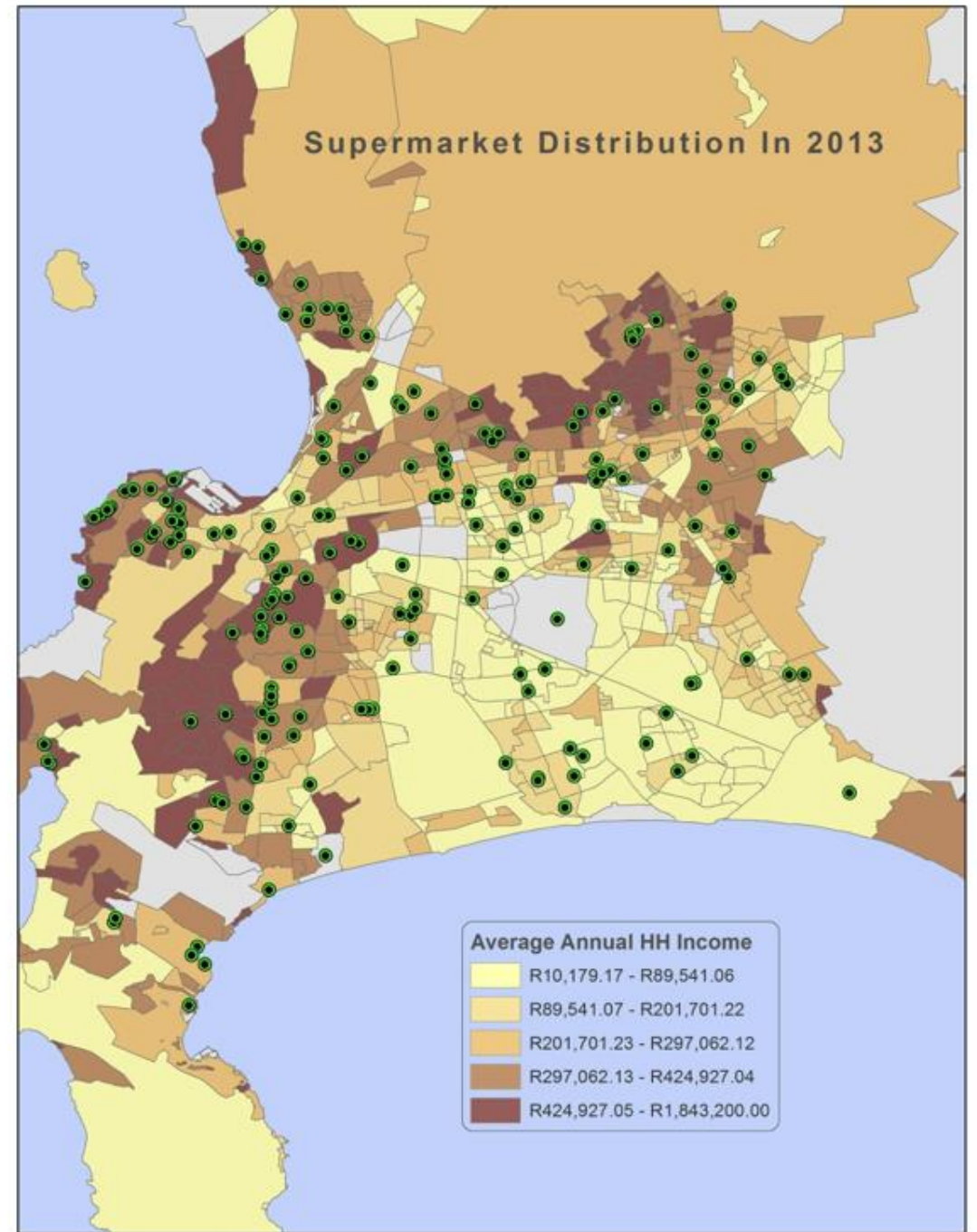
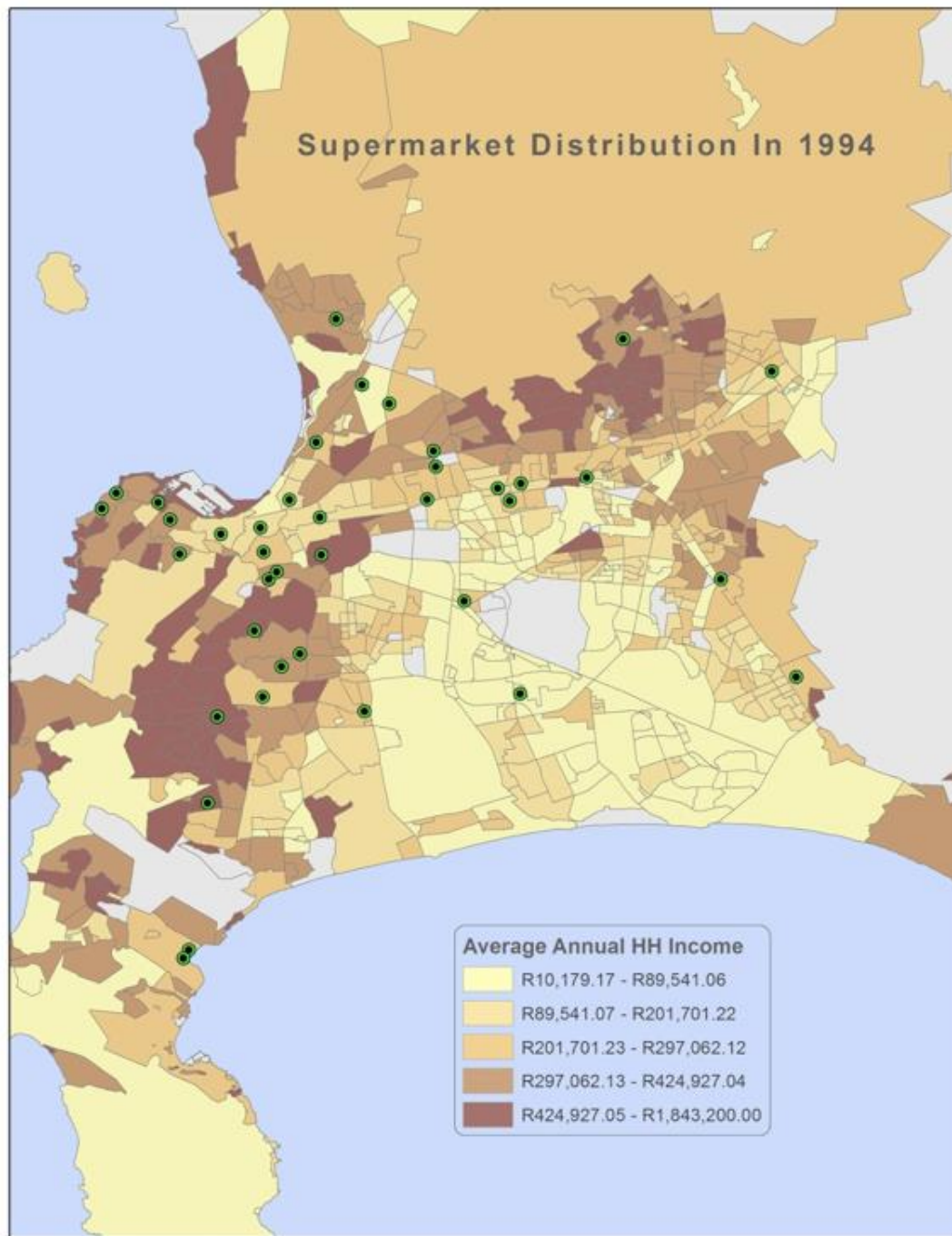


Mandates: Food specific and food sensitive

- Right to Food as a Constitutional Right
- Municipal functions: Licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public; local amenities; markets; municipal abattoirs; municipal parks and recreation; public places; refuse removal; street trading
- Concurrent functions: : Agriculture; consumer protection; disaster management; education at all levels, excluding tertiary education; environment; health services; housing; industrial promotion; pollution control; population development; public transport; public works only in respect of the needs of provincial government departments in the discharge of their responsibilities to administer functions specifically assigned to them in terms of the Constitution or any other law; regional planning and development; soil conservation; trade; urban and rural development; welfare services

However...

- While the Right to Food is constitutionally guaranteed, in order for the right to become law it will require a court (usually Constitutional Court) to provide a judgment.
- Policy framings of food security locate it as a production issue, therefore not a municipal function
- Creates not just policy gaps and funding, but also critical data gaps, and abdicates municipal responsibility





- In 2012 a new single zoning scheme was introduced , which has been argued to be anti-poor and could render 70% of spaza stores illegal.
- “The most harmful of these provisions is section 5.2.3 which require that there should be a separate structure for trading, and that no area used for trading should open into a bedroom or toilet. These provisions clearly targets the most vulnerable of subsistence traders who reside in one roomed RDP houses and one roomed shacks in informal settlements and are therefore automatically disqualified from trading.”

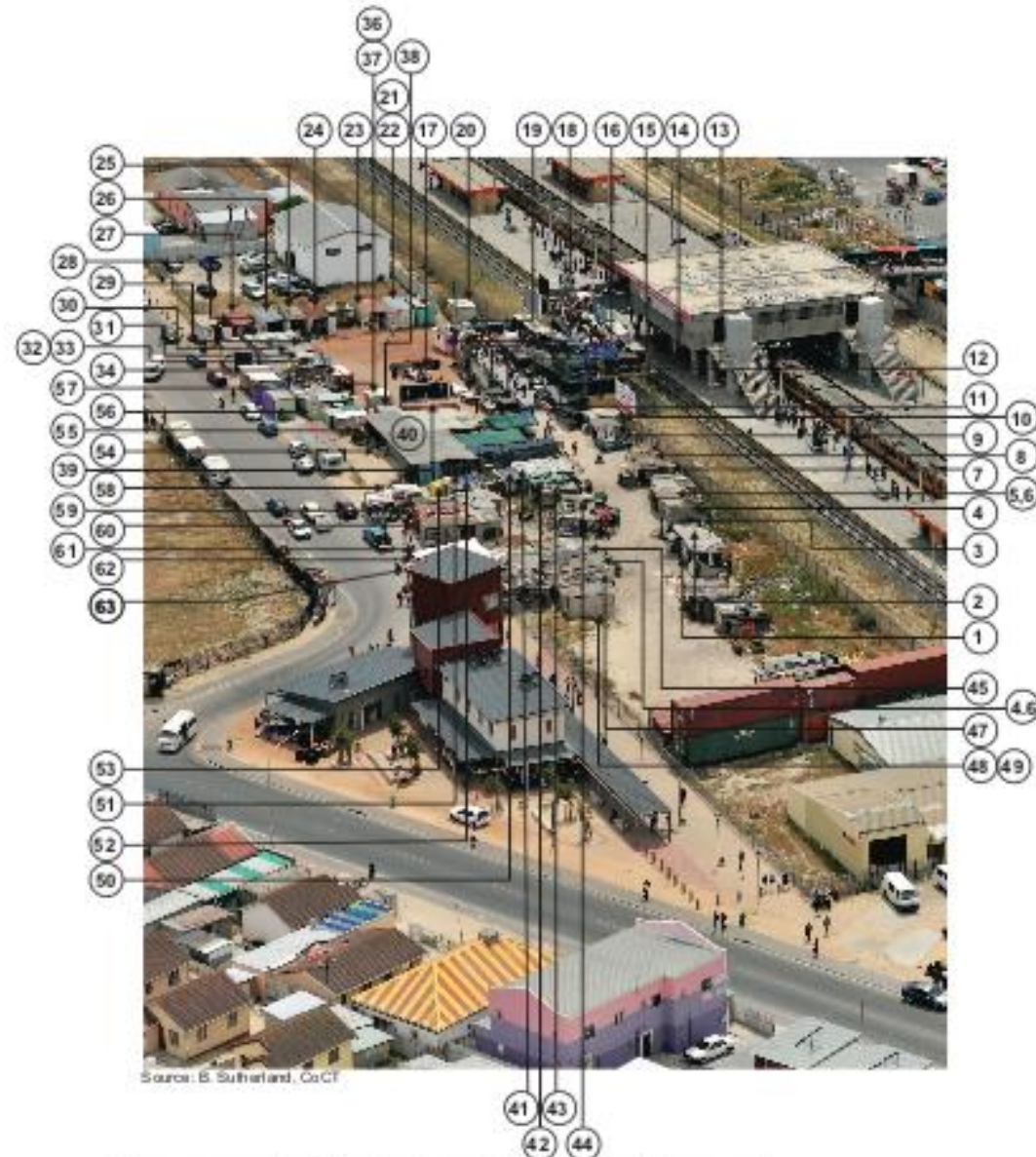
(Western Cape Informal Traders Coalition, the Somali Association of South Africa, COSATU Western Cape, PASSOP, the National Consumer Forum, the South African Council of Churches, the Scalibrini Foundation and the Legal Resources Centre. <http://www.streetnet.org.za/show.php?id=491>)

02. Khayelitsha Railway Station Interchange

Mapping of traders on privately owned and City owned land

Figure 48: Layout of traders on privately owned and City owned land

Source: B. Sutherland, CoCT



Source: B. Sutherland, CoCT

There were a number of trading units or informal structures that occur on the aerial photograph but are not longer there. They are therefore not numbered.

Food sensitive planning as a way in

- The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (2013)
 - (a) The principle of spatial justice, whereby—
 - (i) past spatial and other development imbalances must be redressed through improved access to and use of land;
 - (iv) land use management systems must include all areas of a municipality and specifically include provisions that are flexible and appropriate for the management of disadvantaged areas, informal settlements and former homeland areas;
 - b) The principle of spatial sustainability, whereby spatial planning and land use management systems must—
 - (ii) ensure that special consideration is given to the protection of prime and unique agricultural land;
 - (v) consider all current and future costs to all parties for the provision of infrastructure and social services in land developments;
 - (vii) result in communities that are viable;
- These principles cascade down to Provincial and Municipal spatial development frameworks and development plans

Going forward

- Guiding principles and locating language of food in strategic planning documents
- Data and proof of concept, but avoiding the project trap
- Engaging informality
- Work across tiers of government
- Dialogue within government and Community of Practice – not a single champion
- (making the most of a crisis)