

2019 CAP Awards: Winners Announced!

The winners of the 2019 CAP Awards for Outstanding Planning Achievement in the Commonwealth were announced on the 9th November 2019 at the 50th anniversary conference of the Ghana Institute of Planners in Accra, Ghana.

Entries were reviewed by the independent judging panel consisting of: Trudi Elliot CBE (Chair), Kristin Agnello, Dr Carol Archer, Viral Desai, Emeritus Professor Cliff Hague OBE and Professor Barbara Norman.

The 2019 awards attracted almost twice the number of entries as last year. There have been entries relating to planning in a wide range of Commonwealth countries including: Ghana, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Sierra Leone, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, St Lucia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Antigua and Barbuda, St Vincent & the Grenadines.

The judges were impressed by the breath and quality of this year's entries which covered the full range of commonwealth opportunities and challenges not least those connected to the climate emergency. The shortlist reflected this diversity and the role planning and planners can play in shaping our commonwealth future whilst dealing with today's realities. This year in addition to the overall winner the Judges have Highly Commended four entries. All five projects draw upon the sustainable development goals and contribute to their delivery.

The judges selected one overall winner and four Highly Commended entries.

******* Overall Winner *******

The 2019 CAP Award for Outstanding planning achievement in the Commonwealth goes to:

Draft Waimakariri Residential Red Recovery Plan

Key Organisation: Waimakariri District Council.

Location: Waimakariri District, Canterbury, New Zealand

2019 CAP Awards: Winners Announced!

The 2010 and 2011 Canterbury earthquakes caused unprecedented and widespread damage in Kaiapoi, The Pines Beach and Kairaki in New Zealand, with almost 100 hectares of mainly residential land "zoned red" and over 1000 homes demolished. Following the earthquakes the Waimakariri District Council undertook numerous community engagement, recovery and regeneration planning exercises, including the preparation of a Draft Recovery Plan for the worst affected areas in 2016. While developing the Plan, the project team displayed innovative and creative excellence in planning, community engagement and leadership, successfully responding to complex planning and technical requirements across three spatial areas within a relatively short time frame. Many of the techniques employed are directly transferable to Commonwealth countries faced with similar disaster-related planning needs. The discipline and skills provided by planners were critical to the project's success, with the project winning four awards and wide praise from the community, agencies and academics.

Judges' Comments

The judges describe this is an excellent example of a timely recovery and resilience plan that responds to complex land use and technical requirements, the needs of multiple stakeholders, and an exhausted and polarized public in a relatively short time frame. Disaster recovery is an international issue and the approach followed here is replicable in other Commonwealth countries. The submission highlights the critical role planners played and thoroughly linked the work to the Sustainable Development Goals. The judges were impressed by the urgency of the response.

2019 CAP Awards: Winners Announced!



***** HIGHLY COMMENDED *****

Production of Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes

Belinda Bukari

Key Organisation: Ghana Institute of Planners. **Location:** Chereponi District, Ghana

Belinda Bukari led this project which promoted the cultivation of orange flesh sweet potatoes in the Chereponi District in the NE Region of Ghana. Belinda is a Senior Development Planning Officer in Local Government, a member of the Ghana Institute of Planners and a member of CAPs Women in Planning Network.

Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes were first introduced to the District by a USAID funded project in 2016. The crop has many advantages including excellent nutritional value particularly for children and expectant mothers.

The crop was cultivated by two women's group who produced the crop on 10 ha of land. Yields were far short of what was expected due to the poor quality of land which the women were given.

2019 CAP Awards: Winners Announced!

Undeterred the women carried on their work using Village Saving & Loan Association groups formed by the District Assembly which enabled them to gain access to larger and more fertile lands leading to substantially improved yields.

As the District Planning Officer, Belinda led the crusade for securing fertile lands for the women's groups from their community leaders. The work used innovative and integrated approaches in its implementation and showed the huge achievements possible through the use of planning skills including effective leadership and community engagement as so amply demonstrated by Belinda.

Commercial cultivation of the crop has now been mainstreamed in the District Medium term Development Plans. The wider cultivation of this crop can help lift whole communities out of poverty and make substantial improvements to nutrition on a wide scale.

Judges' Comments

The judges Highly Commended this project and in particular its leader Belinda Bukari. The project shows Belinda as a change agent in support of CAPs Women in Planning Manifesto which aims to strengthen the role of women and address gender issues in planning. It demonstrates the role planners can play in driving economic development overturning traditional gender-based exclusion, and tackling poverty, health and inequality. This is a really valuable project with lessons transferable across the Commonwealth.

2019 CAP Awards: Winners Announced!



.....

***** **HIGHLY COMMENDED** *****

Creating a Spatial Plan for Bo City, Sierra Leone

Key Organisations: One World Link, Bo City Council, Turley, Prince's Foundation for Building Community. **Location:** Bo, Sierra Leone

This project is a partnership between the UK charity One World Link together with partner organisations in the UK and the city of Bo in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone does not currently have an effective land use planning system and Bo had no spatial plan to guide development. Moreover, the City Council did not have the skills, tools, capacity and resources to develop one. The aim of this project has been change this; to begin to develop a spatial development plan for the city and empower the local community to understand and embrace the value of spatial planning in helping them become more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Furthermore, the project has sought to understand how the lessons learnt in Bo could be applied across Sierra Leone.

2019 CAP Awards: Winners Announced!

Judges' Comments

The judges Highly Commended the cross-Commonwealth collaboration to address the challenges of a rapidly growing city where in effect there has been no planning function. The project which involves UK volunteers, local planners in Bo and Bo City Council, combines planning with capacity building locally and the testing of a toolkit for use in other parts of the Commonwealth.



.....

***** **HIGHLY COMMENDED** *****

Traditional Knowledge and Use Assessment Study

Key organisations: City of Lethbridge, Kainai First Nation, Siksika Nation, Piikani Nation, Arrow Archaeology.

Location: Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

The Traditional Knowledge and Use Assessment Study (TKUA) is a unique and innovative project that examined the historical and continued presence of the Siksikaitsitapi (Blackfoot peoples) within the urban landscape of the City of Lethbridge (or Sik'oo'h'kotoki, as it is known in Blackfoot). The TKUA was a collaboration between the City and three Blackfoot Nations of Kainai, Piikani and Siksika to identify and understand places of traditional land use, Indigenous ecological knowledge and spirituality within municipal boundaries. The project relied on the knowledge, expertise and wisdom of Blackfoot Elders,

2019 CAP Awards: Winners Announced!

Knowledge Keepers and technicians from across Blackfoot Territory. The information gathered through the TKUA will inform future land use planning projects in the City, as well as advance conversations about historical resources management. At its core, the TKUA was an exercise of reconciliation and relationship building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities based on a foundation of shared values, history and respect.

Judges' Comments

The judges Highly Commended the innovative approach in this study in which the Blackfoot Nations were consultants, rather than being engaged through a participation process. Engaging diverse communities in the planning process is a key Commonwealth challenge and the use of oral histories and stories to inform this heritage planning project is instructive. The project clearly identifies the Sustainable Development Goal drivers.

.....

***** **HIGHLY COMMENDED** *****

Strengthening Disaster and Climate Change Resilience in the Commonwealth Caribbean

Key organisations: Commonwealth Association of Planners, Caribbean Planning Association, Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. **Location:** Eastern Caribbean, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, St Lucia.

The project reviewed the methodologies for preparing national and local area land use plans developed by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in 2016. The methodologies were based on disaster risk reduction and watershed management and were being piloted in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Dominica (Marigot area) during the 2017 Caribbean hurricane season. The project evaluated the relevance of the methodologies in a real life disaster context. The review consisted of a desktop examination of relevant

2019 CAP Awards: Winners Announced!

documentation and field review in the pilot countries where critical stakeholders in both the public and private sectors were interviewed and the field conditions assessed. This was followed by a regional stakeholder workshop in St Lucia, organised with the OECS, to improve plan development and implementation in the BVI and Dominica specifically, but also to review the general methodologies and increase their relevance to the other countries in the OECS.

Judges' Comments

This Highly Commended project is an outstanding example that leverages the collaboration of international experts to support planning practice in a small island developing state with limited technical capacity in the wake of natural disasters. The judges noted the channels for dissemination and wider implementation.



.....

Clive Harridge
Secretary-General