

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Figure 1.1 provides a graphical overview of the organization and structure of this chapter.

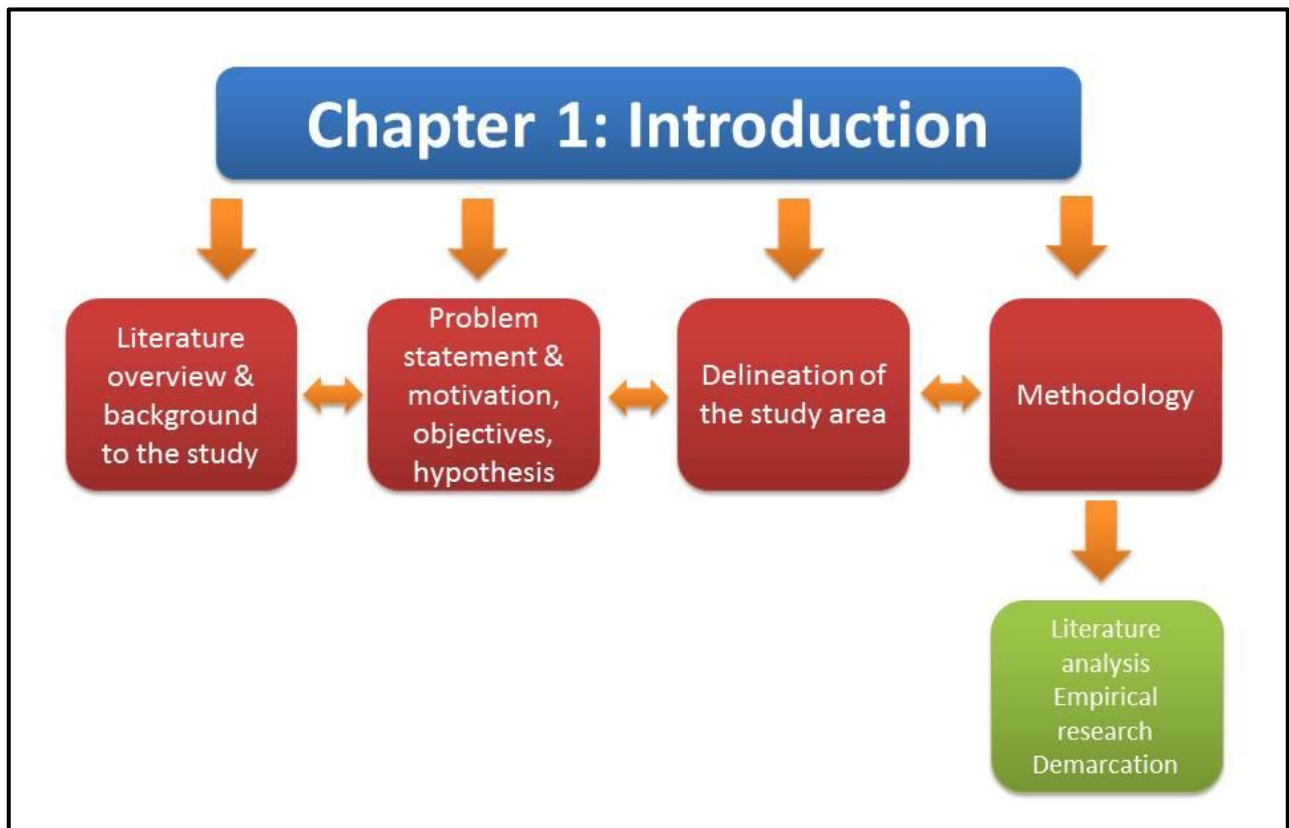


Figure 1.1: A concept map of Chapter 1

Source: Own construction

1.1 Literature overview and background to the study.

In the last century urban populations have increased to the point that there are currently more people living in urban areas than in rural areas, and this trend has become an established pattern. Africa is experiencing the highest urbanisation rate of all the continents (South African Cities Network, 2011a:1). By 2001 57% of the South African population was urbanised (Collins, 2001) and this percentage has risen during the last decade. With the increased influx of people into cities many new problems have emerged, such as the inability to provide adequate housing, a rise in crime and unemployment and substandard service delivery. In 2010 72% of urban residents in sub-Saharan Africa lived in slums or informal settlements (Smit, 2010). These difficulties then pile on existing problems to create a steaming hot-pot of troubles that government need to address.

Under the Apartheid regime South African cities have developed in a decidedly distorted, fragmented and uneven manner. This development included unequal distributions of resources, power, democracy and freedom of movement to the city inhabitants. The South African legacy of Apartheid has only made the usual problems associated with urbanisation, such as housing and service delivery, more complex. Collins (2001) states that during the Apartheid era the urbanisation of black people in particular was made especially difficult by laws forcing them to live in areas (Homelands) far from main cities. Smith (2010) states that “after the abolition of influx control in 1986, but especially after 1994, many hopeful people started streaming to South Africa’s cities and towns”. Shortage of accommodation and the laws of the time forced these people to live in shack-towns and squatter camps on the outskirts of the city.

After the democratisation of South Africa in 1994 the government adopted the “Cities without slums” slogan of the World Bank and the United Nations (UN) and stated that squatter camps will be eradicated by 2014 (Smith, 2010). Rural migrants looking for a better life inevitably end up in backyard shacks and informal settlements, making the task of local government to provide adequate and affordable services a continuous battle. (South African Cities Network, 2011a:1) Not only are national migrants moving into urban areas but in recent years the influx of illegal immigrants from other African countries has also increased. This has led to the number of squatter camps in South Africa rising from 300 in 1994 to 2 600 in 2010 (Smith, 2010). Not only do contemporary South African cities have to address these problems and disparities, but they also have to keep up with the changing global economy. With the world’s urban population growing by 200 000 people a day and the South African population expected to be 67.9 % urbanised by 2025 (United Nations, 2012a) squatters in South Africa are more likely to increase than decrease (Smith, 2010)

According to De Beer and Swanepoel (1998:1) the practice of community development dates back in history to the time of the early civilizations, when mankind initiated actions from which groups or parts of groups benefitted in some or other way. The more modern form of community development originated in 1921 in India with the support of the Institute for Rural Reconstruction. Brokensha and Hodge (1969:40-41) state that the aim of this institute was to “bring back life in all its completeness, making the villagers self-reliant and self-respectful, acquainted with the cultural tradition of their own country and competent to make efficient use of modern resources for the fullest development of their physical, social, economic and intellectual conditions”. The popularity of community development took off and by the early 1960’s community development programmes were in place in more than sixty countries, and in more

than half of those countries these projects represented the national development efforts. (De Beer & Swanepoel, 1998:3)

With the 1987 release of the Brundtland Commission's report, *Our Common Future*, the concept of sustainable development became a well-established and recognised concept. It became common knowledge that without protection of the environment, development will not be sustained, but also that sustainable development can also not happen if certain social and economic factors don't support it.

It was only logical that the two terms of community development and sustainable development should merge into a new term: sustainable community development. The South African government has incorporated the idea of sustainable community development into its new National Framework for Sustainable Development (NFSD)(Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, 2008:6) and other policy guidelines (as can be seen in **Chapter 6**) while the concept has also been inaugurated into many international planning projects (as seen in **Chapter 5**).

1.2 Problem statement and motivation

The legacy of apartheid left in its wake divided cities, townships with minimal facilities and services, low-cost areas with rows of standardised houses, rampant urban sprawl, high transportation and environmental costs, widespread poverty and high levels of unemployment. Now, 17 years into democracy, the gap between the have and have-nots is as wide as ever. "Wealthy areas continue to have better roads and infrastructure, more schools and clinics as well as recreational spaces and access to economic nodes." (South African Cities Network, 2011a:1)

Fittingly the South African government is taking measures to address the abovementioned challenges. One of the prominent products of the political transition was a new form of municipal planning focused around the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and its sectoral plans. The central aims of the IDP are to develop a holistic, integrated and participatory strategic plan. The IDP guides the work of the Municipality and the principles of sustainable development are a critical component of this plan.

Development principles for sustainability have been adopted at national, provincial and local government level in Agenda 21, the National Framework for Sustainable Development and

Municipal bylaws. These form the basis for sustainable community planning. These principles should be reflected in all spatial plans and urban development projects.

In African countries migration to the city exceeds the capacity of these cities to accommodate their new residents. Van Bueren, Van Bohemen, Itard and Visscher (2012:2) state that “cities do not fulfil the promise of a better life that made people leave their rural villages”. It is due to these factors that the concept of sustainable community development is of particular relevance to South Africa. Sustainable community development is necessary in order to achieve more integrated and sustainable towns and cities with a better urban environment and a higher quality of life.

Although projects of sustainable community development have been initiated since 1994 very few have been successful. Why have so many projects failed and what is the key to success?

1.3 Research objectives

This study will focus on an analysis of sustainable community planning and development principles. The main objective of this study is to determine scientifically what is needed for success, point out what areas for weakness exists and then compile an assessment matrix with which to measure the successfulness of a project.

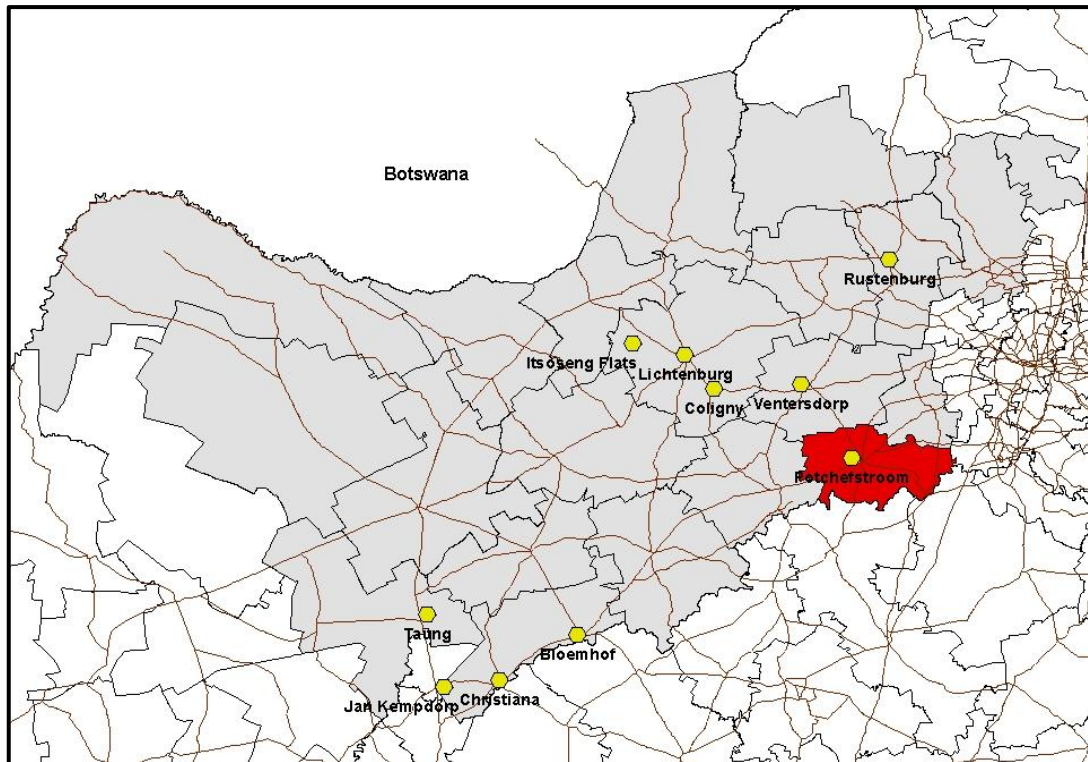
As focus this study will examine the application of development projects within the Tlokwe Municipality. The secondary objective of this research is to determine if these goals and principles of sustainable community development and planning are being adequately reflected in the municipality’s development plans and if they are properly implemented. This study will determine if the selected municipality’s sectoral plans are focused on the areas identified as preventing sustainable development and if the necessary development initiatives have been implemented.

An evaluation and assessment of case studies can assist Local Municipalities to prevent poor project identification and lack of implementation and will assist by giving additional guidelines for sustainable community planning and development.

1.4 Delineation of the study area

The Tlokwe Local Municipality (TLM) in the North West Province, South Africa, will be used as a case study area in **Chapter 7** to evaluate the success of local sustainable community projects.

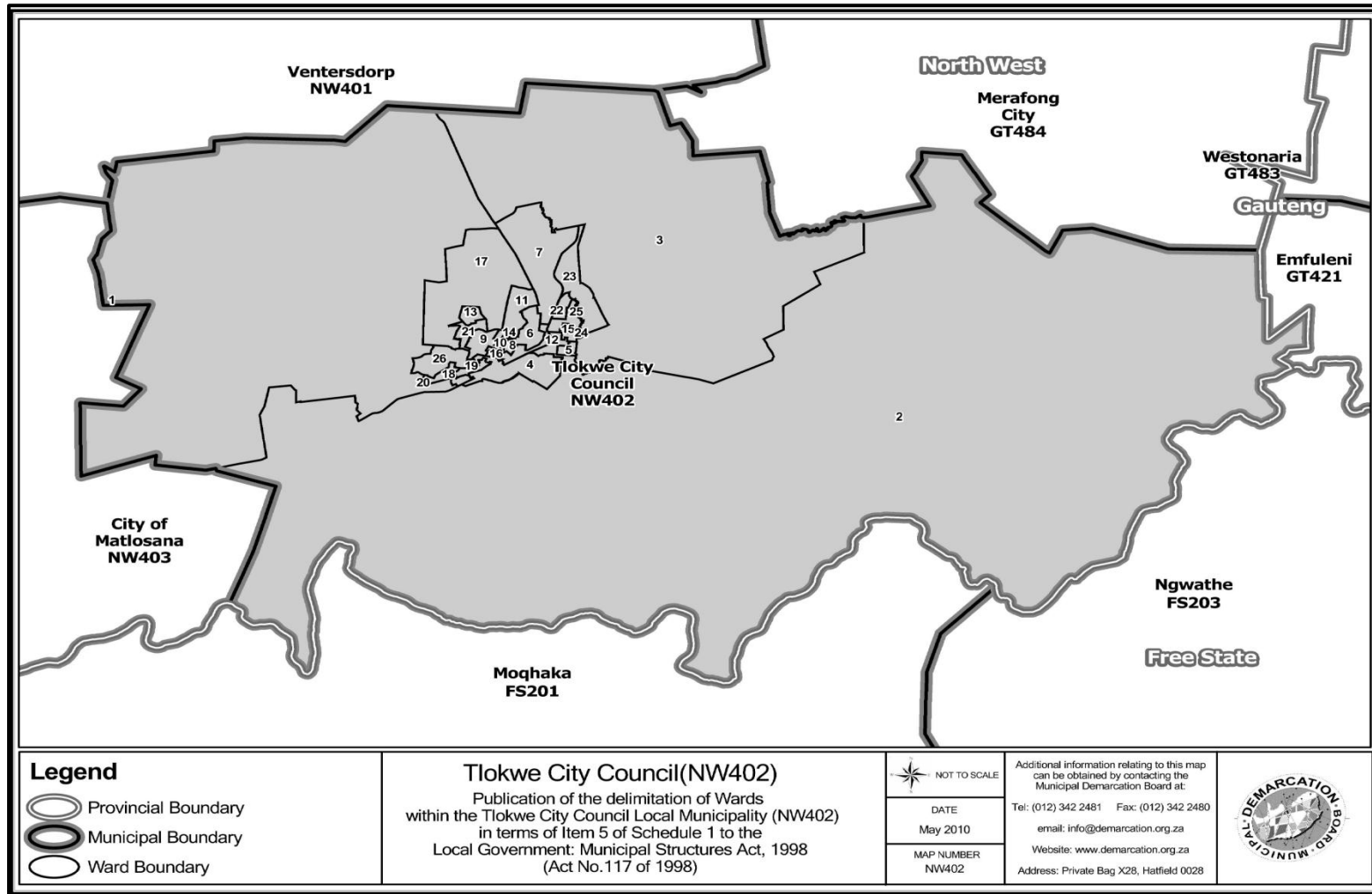
Map 1.1 shows the location of the Tlokwe Local Municipality within the bigger scope of the North West Province.



Map 1.1: Location of the Tlokwe Local Municipality within the bigger scope of the North West Province.

Source: Own construction

The geographical area contained in this study includes the area demarcated as NW402 by the Demarcation Board (North West, 2010:3). This study area includes the institutional entity of the Tlokwe Local Municipality (NW402). The TLM consists of 26 wards, each of which does not vary by more than 15% from the norm (North West Province, 2010:3). **Map 1.2** shows the demarcation of the Tlokwe Local Municipality, as well as the delimitation of the wards therein.



Map 1.2: The demarcation of the Tlokwe Local Municipality and the delimitation of the Wards therein.

Source: North West Province, 2010:15.

The Tlokwe Local Municipality is identified by the North West Spatial Development Framework (North West Province, 2008b:12) as a priority one investment area. A priority one investment area is an area in which social and economic returns on investment will be the highest. It is thus imperative that the Tlokwe Local Municipality should have policies, guidelines and strategies in place to facilitate sustainable community development.

1.5 Research hypothesis

The hypothesis is that the Tlokwe Local Municipality will be found to have a lack of policy and guidance in the field of sustainable community development. This study will be able to provide recommendations to ensure that future ventures will be more successful.

1.6 Research methodology and research structure

1.6.1 Literature analysis

In this study an intensive analysis of the literature sources on sustainable community development is made. This includes a variety of articles from different authors, books on the literature research, internet resources and an intensive study of previous research.

Various policy and legislative documents were also consulted during the course of this study. This includes documents from government departments such as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the Department of Provincial and Local Government, etc.

The study covers the different views of various academics, practitioners and experts and contains a wide range of inputs from specialists in the field of sustainable development and sustainable community development.

1.6.2 Empirical research

The empirical research entails an assessment of a number of sustainable community development projects, the various definitions of sustainability and sustainable communities as well as the practises and legislative framework concerning sustainable community planning and development.

This assessment will be used to determine the challenges, limitations and shortcomings of implementing sustainable community projects.

These, coupled with knowledge learned from studying international and national examples of sustainable community planning and development as well as analysis techniques such as the use of sustainable development indicators and multi-criteria analysis, will then be used to assemble an assessment matrix to evaluate a municipality's performance.

The Tlokwe Local Municipality (TLM) in the North West Province, South Africa, is used as a case study area to examine the effectiveness of the new assessment matrix and also to look at the success of their current and planned community projects.

1.6.3 Structure of research concept

The structure of the research document is graphically illustrated in **Figure 1.2**. It clearly illustrates how each chapter links to the next and how all chapters form part of a whole.

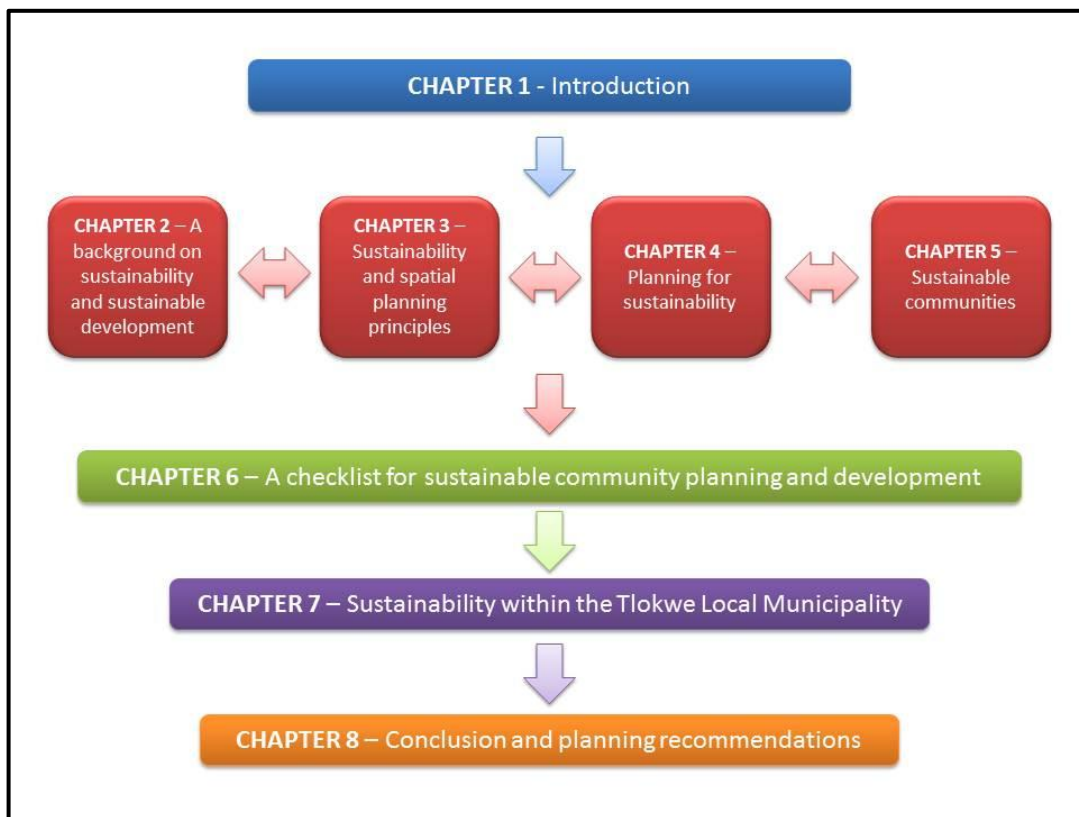


Figure 1.2 Structure of the research document

Source: Own construction

Chapter 2 gives a background on sustainability and sustainable development. This includes an overview on the definitions of sustainability and sustainable development and also investigates the dimensions of sustainability. This chapter also provides a description of the current standpoint of sustainability and sustainable development in South Africa.

In **Chapter 3** the interrelation between sustainability and planning principles is examined and illustrated. Attention is also given to the manner in which sustainability translates into planning principles since planning precedes development.

How to plan for sustainable development is underlined in **Chapter 4**. The chapter gives a description of the application of the planning framework and the use of the urban planning structure. How sustainable development is interpreted in strategic planning documents, such as the IDP (Integrated Development Plan) and SDF (Spatial Development Framework), is also illustrated.

Chapter 5 entails a description of sustainable communities. This includes a definition of a sustainable community and a description of the characteristics and nature of sustainable communities. Problems in realizing sustainable communities are also identified and high-lighted by analysing examples of sustainable communities in South Africa and the World.

In **Chapter 6** an assessment matrix for sustainable community planning and development is compiled. This is done by examining acknowledged sustainability indicators as well as Local and National policy guidelines for sustainable community planning and development while also incorporating the principles of multi-criteria analysis. This final assessment matrix can then be used to assess the success of a proposed or existing development, and to guide the progress thereof.

Chapter 7 gives a critical analysis of sustainable community planning and principles in the Tolkwe Local Municipality. In order to do this, local principles on community development and planning are investigated as well as current, and future, community projects. Using the assessment matrix compiled in Chapter 6 an assessment of each is given.

The final conclusions and recommendations are given in **Chapter 8**. This includes a summary of the assessments, observations and conclusions that were made throughout this document as well as the conclusions drawn from the empirical study. These conclusions will be used to give recommendations based on the results.