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An evaluation of the sustainability of urban regeneration projects in the Johannesburg inner city

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the sustainability of urban regeneration projects in the Johannesburg inner city using a prescribed model. This paper discusses the history associated with urban decay in the inner city, some of the current challenges still facing the inner city and intervention strategies put in place to restore the city to its former state, a world class African city. This paper further analysed the concept of urban regeneration, sustainable urban regeneration and methods used to measure sustainable urban regeneration in relation to cities. The report found that the indicator approach was the best way of evaluating the sustainability of urban regeneration as compared to other methods and it is the most widely used method in urban studies to give an indication of an areas situation. Through analysis of the previously used methods of evaluating the sustainability of urban regeneration projects, the Hemphill methodology was found to be the most widely used and has been replicated several times around the world due to its ability to produce robust, reliable, and valid results. This is because it has an extensive coverage of indicators, the derivation procedure of those indicators is said to encompass good practice and follows a logical rationale behind and it is robust hence the application of the method on the current study. Based on the results produced after the application of the Hemphill methodology on the study, the Johannesburg inner city is said to be making good progress towards sustainable urban regeneration. However, there is still room for improvement if the city is to move towards a sustainable world class African city.