



## chapter 9 conclusion





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## THE CONCLUSION

In the 111 years of the National Zoological Gardens' existence, it has grown from strength to strength. Unfortunately, the area surrounding the Zoo has taken a turn for the worse. Deteriorating public facilities and tourism activity does an injustice to the Zoo in its quest to reach its full potential.

The CONNECTIVITY THROUGH ACTIVITY framework is tailor made to start a rejuvenation process in the area. It not only strives to create an active tourism hub around the Zoo, but also re-link the Northern precinct to the CBD.

The proposal aims at breaking down barriers that dissociates the Zoo from its surroundings, as well as reconnecting the natural environments with the city fabric. The reprogramming of the transition space between Boom Street and the Zoo proves vital in creating a more public approach to the tourism destination, as it is currently limiting on both a regional and intervention scale.

By integrating nature and the city, the intervention becomes the centre of activity, while providing an array of public services and learning opportunities. It also maximises retail and commercial opportunities for the Zoo itself, and creates creative spaces for the Zoo and NGOs to work closer together.

ZOOGATE responds to both natural and manmade context in its environment, with the purpose of blurring the boundaries between the two. Visitors are always aware of their surroundings due to the transparent nature of the proposal. It responds to nature in the way that the stereotomic and tectonic is designed and applied, but always stays rooted in its city context.

The ZOOGATE proposal is not only the new forecourt to the National Zoological Gardens, but the starting point to the regeneration and re-activation of a derelict district.

Welcome to the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa.



