

*Meso Context*

## Introduction

This following chapter analyses the Meso Context of the project. The first section will investigate how the form of the Inner City of Tshwane can be defined and analysed by making use of the cosmic model. In the latter sections the focus area of the study and site of the project is identified and analysed.

### 3.1 The Cosmic City

In 'A Theory of Good City Form' Lynch proposes three normative theories whereby the form of a city may be defined and analysed: the organic model, the machine model and the cosmic model (Lynch, 1987: 73). He argues that the form of any permanent settlement should be a magical model of the universe.

He asserts that it is a means of linking human beings to those vast forces and a way of stabilizing the order and harmony of the cosmos. He argues that human life is thereby given a secure and permanent place whilst the universe continues its proper sacred motions (Lynch, 1987: 81).

He states that the primary values behind the concepts are order, stability, dominance, a close and enduring fit between action and form and above all, the negation of time, decay, death and fearful chaos (Lynch, 1987: 79). The following are form concepts in the cosmic model as set forth by Lynch:

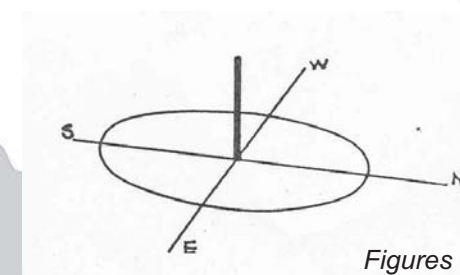
- **Axial line of procession** and approach
- The dominance of **up versus down** or **big versus small**
- The **sacred centre**
- The diverse meanings of the **cardinal directions** due to their relation to the sun and the seasons
- The regular **grid** for establishing a pervasive order
- The device of organization by means of **hierarchy**
- Bilateral **symmetry** as an expression of polarity and dualism
- **Landmarks** at strategic points as a way of visibly controlling large territories
- The sacred nature of the **environment**

(Lynch, 1987: 74)

*The form concepts in the cosmic model and the influence of topography are universal aspects that are clear in the city model of the Inner City of Tshwane*

#### 3.1.1 Pretoria as 'Urbs Quadrata'

The central cross refers to the mandala as the primary cosmic ordering principal and connects the four primary wind directions with the heart of the city, where the church was located (Jordaan, 1989 :26).



Figures 3.1.1 - 3.1.6

Figure 3.1.7



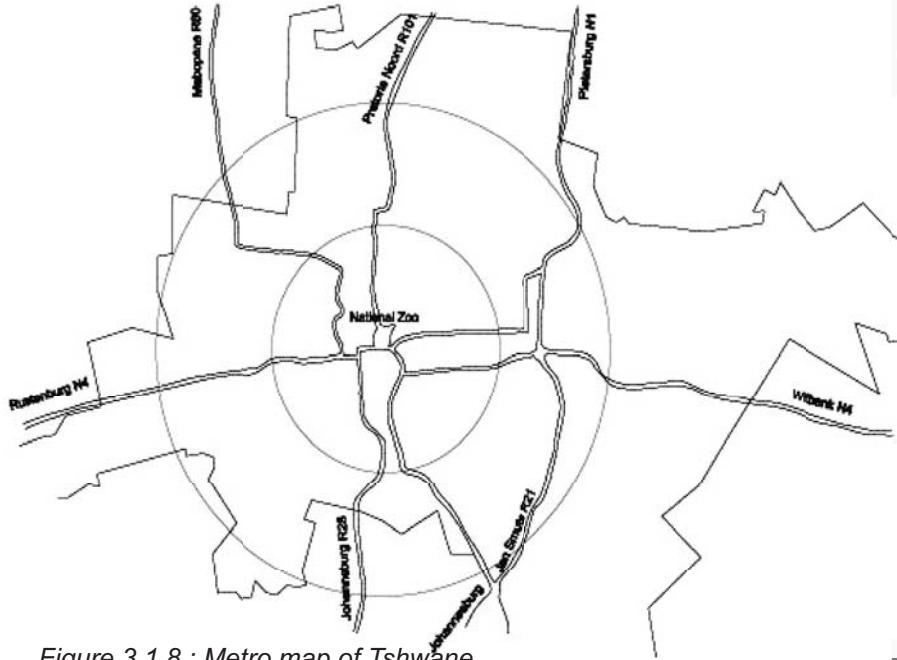


Figure 3.1.8 : Metro map of Tshwane

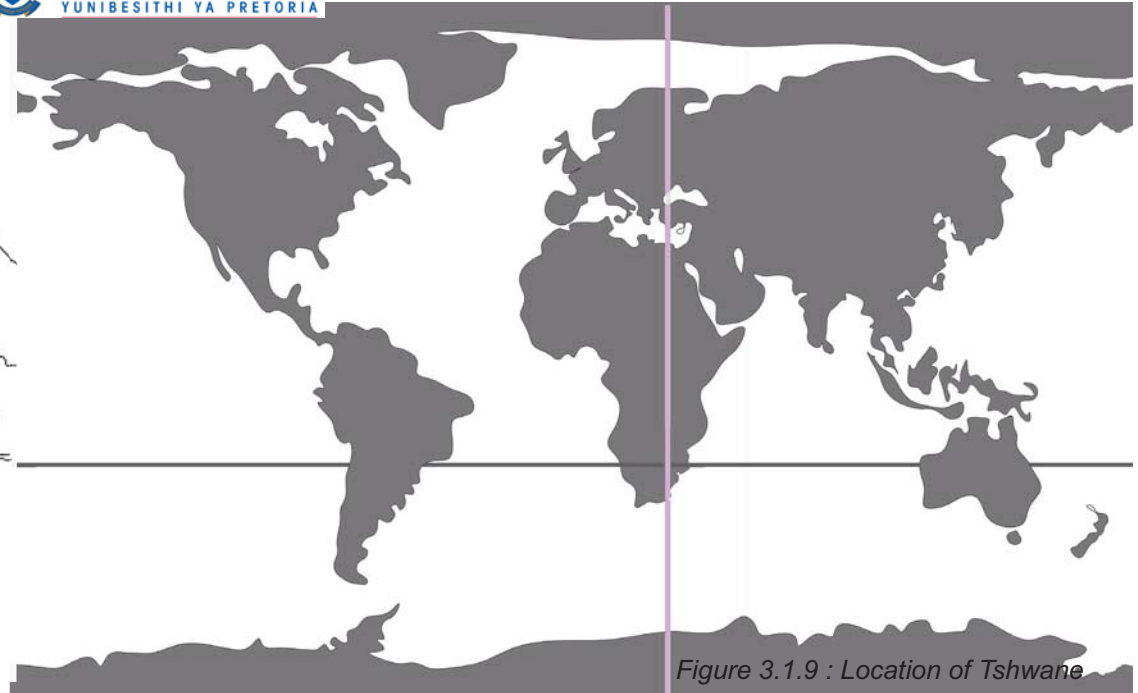


Figure 3.1.9 : Location of Tshwane

The Apiesriver flowed from the east of the city to the west. Contextually the city form is a result of the interpretation of a classical landscape, its mountains, valleys, fountains, rivers and gates (ibid).

The cross of Church and Paul Kruger Streets with the Central Church surrounded by the 'mandala' connects Church Square, as the sacred centre of the city, to the landscape through the river crossings and gates (Jordaan, 1989 :26).

The enclosure inside the rivers and mountain ranges, filled in by the gridiron street layout (ibid).

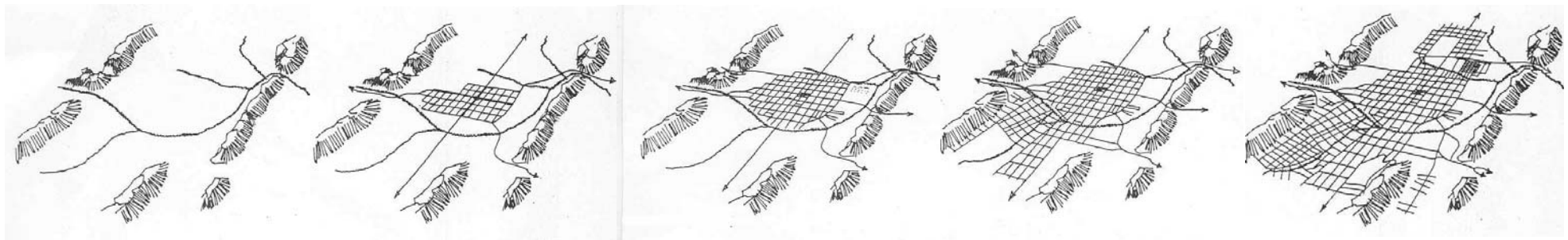




Figure 3.2.1 : Figure ground of the Inner City of Tshwane

### 3.2 The Tshwane Inner City Development Framework (TICP SDF)

The TICP SDF is a macro-scale urban framework focused on sustaining urban renewal (Kruger 2006: 99).



Figure 3.2.2 : Public space network



Figure 3.2.3 : Core axis



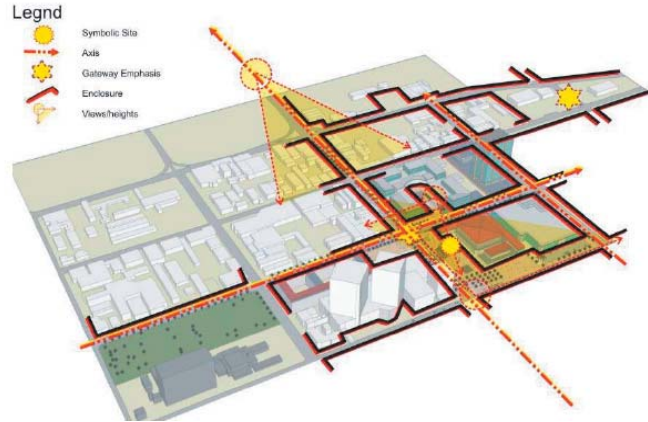


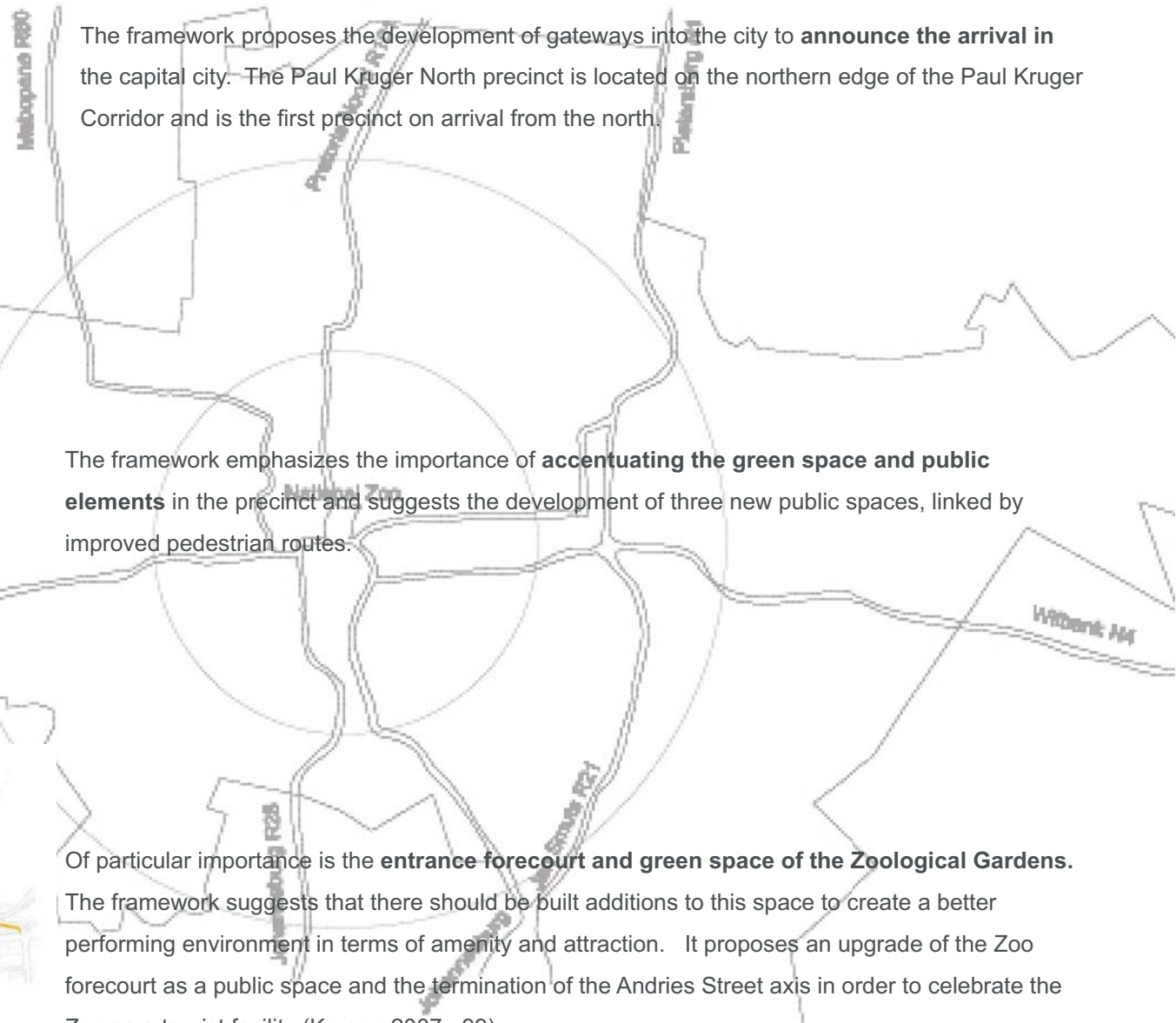
Figure 3.2.4 : Announce the arrival



Figure 3.2.5 : The seven precincts



Figure 3.2.6 : Accentuate green space and public elements



The framework proposes the development of gateways into the city to **announce the arrival in** the capital city. The Paul Kruger North precinct is located on the northern edge of the Paul Kruger Corridor and is the first precinct on arrival from the north.

The framework emphasizes the importance of **accentuating the green space and public elements** in the precinct and suggests the development of three new public spaces, linked by improved pedestrian routes.

Of particular importance is the **entrance forecourt and green space of the Zoological Gardens**. The framework suggests that there should be built additions to this space to create a better performing environment in terms of amenity and attraction. It proposes an upgrade of the Zoo forecourt as a public space and the termination of the Andries Street axis in order to celebrate the Zoo as a tourist facility (Kruger, 2007 : 99).



### 3.3 Analysis surround

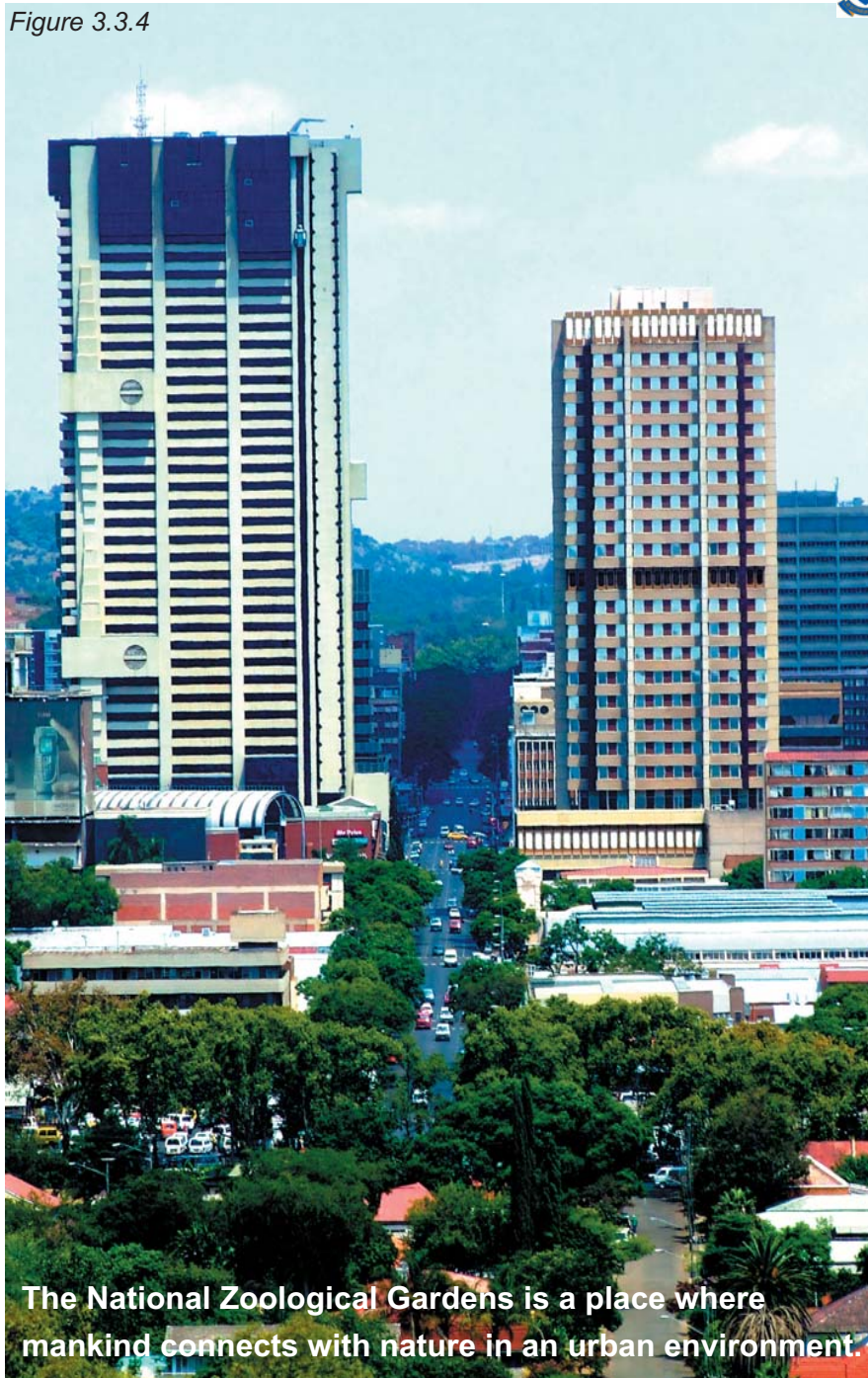


Figure 3.3.1 : Perspective of the CBD of Tshwane



### 3.4 Site Choice motivation

Figure 3.3.4



The National Zoological Gardens is the second most visited tourist attraction in Tshwane. It is a unique facility as it is the second largest urban zoo in the world. It houses the largest inland marine aquarium in the world and is home to the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exotic plant collection in the world. It attracts an average of 550 000 visitors annually and allows for a maximum 5 000 visitors per day (Kitshof 2007). The majority of these visitors are school children. The zoo currently provides the community with a place to learn about the earth and water. It is therefore a logical location for a centre concerning the sky, enhancing the zoo and in turn the northern gateway of the city.

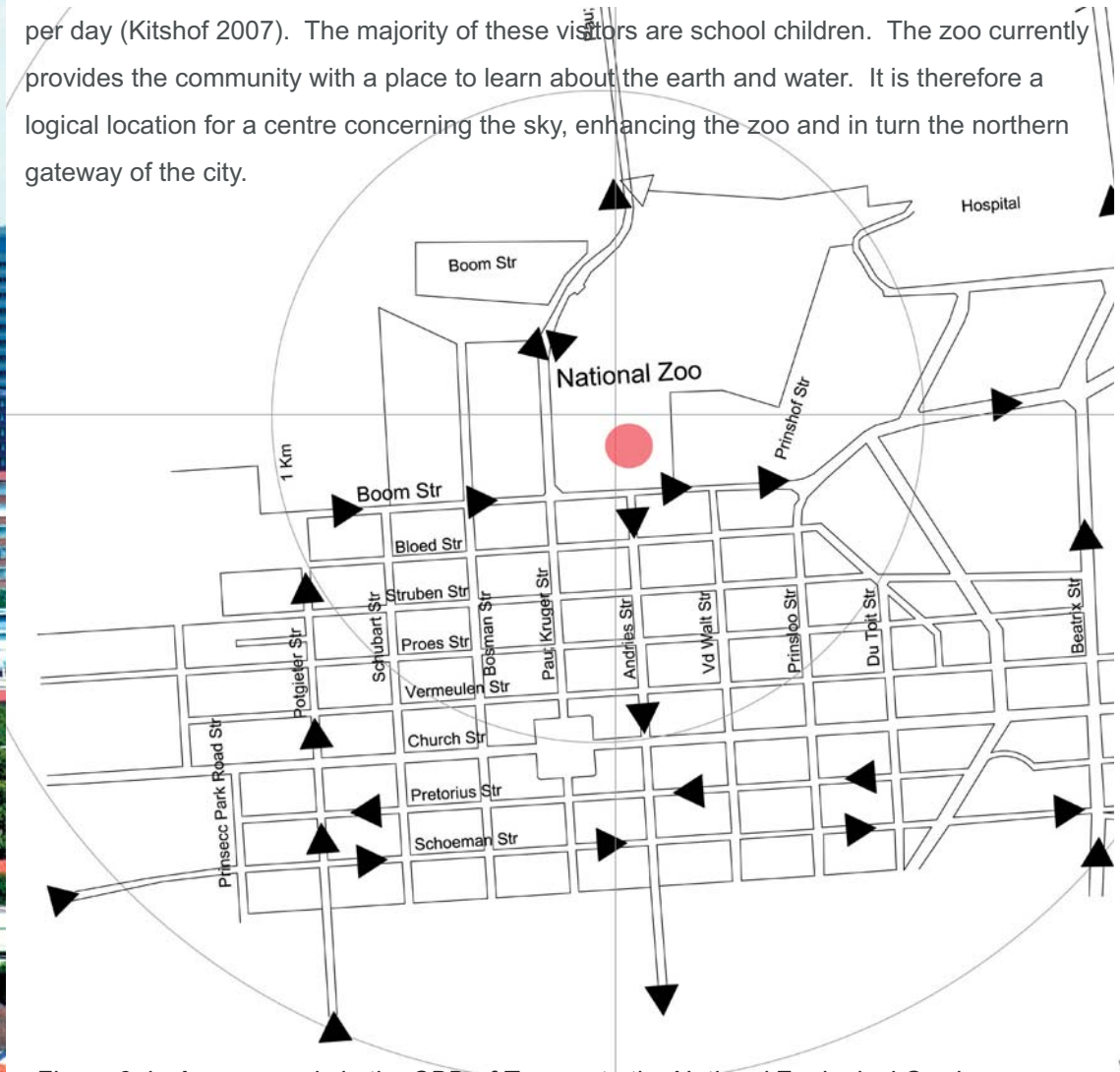


Figure 3.4. Access roads in the CBD of Tshwane to the National Zoological Gardens

