ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

dac | durban adaptation charter

DAC 2013 Annual Report

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Mayor Nxumalo's Foreword

As 2014 awaits us, it provides an opportunity to reflect on our efforts to adapt to climate change, our achievements and challenges. This annual report outlines the progress that we made during 2013 with the implementation of the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) for Local Governments. This includes improving our understanding of what the global implementation of the DAC will consist of, progress with the development of a core network of regionally influential signatory cities and the DAC promotional trip to Washington DC.

During 2013, the DAC has been honoured within a number of international meetings with a platform to raise awareness of the need for local level adaptation and with the hosting of a number of special signing ceremonies. These ceremonies have advanced the number of signatory cities, now in excess of 1100, of the DAC. This was especially the case at ICLEI's Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2013 Congress, in Dar es Salaam, where over 120 members of the Association of Local Authorities in Tanzania (ALAT) committed to implementing the DAC principles in a signing ceremony not unlike the outpouring that we experienced during the original signing of the DAC in December 2011. It is no coincidence that both of these major signing events, of over 100 commitments, occurred within cities of the Global South, and particularly in Africa. We have been reminded, again, with the release of the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report, of the risk that Africans face in terms of development challenges and the impacts of climate change.

We are reminded, too, of the importance of partnerships between and among signatory cities and implementing agents to affect meaningful climate change action. In this respect, we have been fortunate to receive strong support from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, who have hosted a number of these signing ceremonies at international meetings arranged by them, the maintenance of the DAC website and their continued commitment to partner with Durban for the long-term implementation of the DAC. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank a number of other organisations who have contributed substantially to progress made with the DAC during 2013. This includes USAID for their generous funding and the ICMA for their assistance with the hosting of the Implementation Guidance Workshop and CityLinks exchange visits.

There has been substantial expert input from a growing number of expert individuals from other organisations, and on behalf of the Durban Adaptation Charter Secretariat, and Durban, I would like to thank you. I would also like to thank signatory local government officials for your commitment to the DAC. I would like to encourage you to be the catalyst for meaningful climate change action in your own region by encouraging other municipalities in your region to join the Durban Adaptation Charter to start the process of improving the livelihoods of your residents, and reducing the risk that they face.

Councillor James Nxumalo
eThekwini Municipality Mayor

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Introduction

The year 2008 marked the first time in our history that the majority of the world's population began living in urban areas, and this proportion continues to grow. Three quarters of the world's population, and most of its largest cities, are now in low- and middle-income nations. Most of the Gross Domestic Product worldwide is generated within urban centres and, according to the World Bank, cities are where most new investment is concentrated. These patterns of growth increasingly expose urban populations and assets to climate-related risks, and if cities are at risk, then nations will be at risk too. Increased attention to urban climate adaptation is particularly essential for developing and emerging economies in order to build resilience against adverse climate change and to promote continued socio-economic development. The ever-increasing support for the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) by Local Governments demonstrates that urban leaders around the world are recognising that adaptation to climate change is paramount.

The DAC was the historic outcome of the "Durban Local Government Convention: adapting to a changing climate – towards COP17/CMP17 and beyond" held in Durban, South Africa, in December 2011, during the course of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP17/UNFCCC). It formed part of a number of pivotal events and achievements of the Local Government Climate Roadmap. The Convention was led by Mayor James Nxumalo of eThekwini Municipality (the local government managing Durban) in partnership with the South African Local Government Association, South African Cities Network, South African Department of Environmental Affairs, South African Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and attended by over 700 high-level delegates from around the world. After much deliberation the delegates unanimously adopted what would become widely known as the Durban Adaptation Charter or "DAC."

Mayor Nxumalo, as leader of the DAC, was charged with presenting the outcomes from the Convention to the High Plenary session at COP17/CMP7. Mayor

Nxumalo has since established himself as a global adaptation leader at the local government level. He is: i) a member of the World Mayors' Council on Climate Change; ii) Chair of the South African Local Government Association's Climate Change Champions Committee; and iii) Chair of the Adaptation and Risk Reduction Portfolio on the ICLEI Africa Committee and is one of ICLEI's global Vice-Presidents, representing Africa and also with the portfolio of Resilience for the global organisation.

This annual update report summarises the mission and foundations of the DAC and reviews the progress made around envisioning the organisational structure and approach to operationalising the DAC during 2013. These outcomes were identified through the engagement of signatories and local leaders, and this report outlines the efforts taken to date to test ideas and establish a foundation for moving forward. Previous annual DAC reports can be found on the DAC website at: http://durbanadaptationcharter.org.

Mission and Approach

The mission of the Durban Adaptation Charter is to promote local government action that advances climate adaptation. The DAC is unique among international charters and action programmes. In contrast to the Mexico City Pact, which addresses predominantly mitigation, the DAC focuses predominantly on adaptation. In addition, the DAC is distinguished by its elaboration of core actions associated with advancing adaptation; emphasis on action as opposed to negotiation; being Africa-based and led; and comprising a list of signatories that are predominantly from developing countries and cities from the 'Global South'.

By signing the Charter, 254 mayors and elected officials representing over 1100 local governments have made a commitment on behalf of their electorate to take action to adapt to climate change, with the vast majority representing local and urban governments and communities from developing countries (see Appendix Two for the Charter itself and Appendix One for the list of countries featuring signatory organisations).

> "These patterns of growth increasingly expose urban populations and assets to climate-related risks, and if cities are at risk, then nations will be at risk too."

Review of DAC Implementation During 2013

Pathway Towards DAC Implementation: Guidance Workshop

The Secretariat and implementing partners of the Durban Adaptation Charter have had a busy year drafting a plan for the successful implementation of the DAC. In order to determine the implementation, governance and monitoring requirements of the DAC, an Implementation Guidance Workshop (IGW) was held during March 2013. This workshop was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the International Cities/ Counties Management Association (ICMA). Attendees at the workshop consisted of mayors and city leaders from DAC signatory cities and internationally renowned adaptation thought leaders. In his opening address to participants at the workshop, eThekwini Municipality Mayor, and DAC leader, Councillor James Nxumalo, reminded participants of the urgent need for adaptation within developing cities around the world. He added that the strength of the DAC is in its ability to create and sustain partnerships between signatory cities, implementing agents and funding bodies. He concluded by thanking USAID and ICMA for their support in hosting the workshop, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability for their continued commitment towards implementing the DAC, and for organising the workshop.

Collectively, participants at the workshop offered critical input for advancing the DAC. With respect to the needs for implementing the principles of the DAC, participants highlighted: national support, local leadership, local institutions, resources, and stakeholder input. To address these needs they identified a number of measures that could be developed into programming and support for signatories. Notable among these measures were enhancing the visibility of the DAC and DAC signatories, engaging mayors directly, providing recognition for achievements, generating funding for adaptation, and knowledge dissemination and exchange.

Participants highlighted that strong governance measures are integral to the success of the DAC. They envision a secretariat that is housed within an existing organisation, but that also has dedicated staff and programming so that the DAC is given appropriate attention and visibility. They also stressed the importance of mayoral participation through a political board, as well as support from an advisory board comprising diverse groups from different regions of the world. In addition, there was discussion about engaging supporting organisations and creating working groups that will conduct research and develop tools and programmes.

The discussions of assessing progress on implementation emphasised the importance of using existing data and reporting mechanisms as well as ensuring that indicators are locally relevant. Numerous challenges in assessment were raised, both with respect to capacity demands this process can impose as well as with the broader challenges of measuring the implementation and success of adaptation. In response to these challenges, participants generated innovative ideas about how adaptation could be assessed, including the use of qualitative approaches and by measuring adaptive capacity.

The insights generated by the participants offer guidance on how to proceed in implementing the DAC. Overall, they highlight that participants believe it is important to have visibility and support at the international, national and local levels. They also stressed that they are seeking dedicated programming that is coordinated by a secretariat that engages a variety of other organisations and is dedicated to promoting the vision and distinct identity of the DAC, as well as addressing their needs and supporting their efforts.

Two products emerged from the IGW: a social science analysis of the discussions as well as a workshop report. These products are available for download on the DAC website (http://durbanadaptationcharter.org). With regards implementing the DAC, a two-stream process emerged. Firstly, in order to set up a long-term secretariat for the DAC, the steering committee agreed to develop a concept note to source programmatic funding to support the work of a secretariat. This secretariat will be, initially, based in Durban, and in the longer term will transition to ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

Participants of the Implementation Guidance Workshop take a break from their deliberations for a group photo.

Councillor James Nxumalo opens the Implementation Guidance Workshop, along with Mr Gino van Begin, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Secretary General.

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Once established, the Secretariat will organise a number of regional workshops, where DAC signatories will be invited to participate. The aim of these workshops will be to assist signatory cities in transforming their commitment to the DAC principles into local climate change adaptation action and to provide a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the progress made by signatories through these actions.

For immediate implementation, the Secretariat agreed to establish a core network of DAC signatory cities that have already shown leadership with regards to promoting adaptation and the DAC within the respective regions. The proposed cities included Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Dumangas (Philippines), Fort Lauderdale/Broward County (USA)[1] and Durban. It was agreed that these cities would be invited to participate in a series of USAID-funded exchange visits, through the ICMA CityLinks exchange programme, to build capacity around climate change impacts common to the paired exchange partners. The results of such exchanges will be posted on the DAC website to facilitate learning outcomes amongst all DAC signatory cities.

DAC Implementation Plan

The discussions at the Implementation Guidance Workshop provided critical insights into the needs and preferences of local governments for implementing the DAC. Overall, those present highlighted the importance of supporting a variety of approaches to adaptation so that they are suited to local contexts. Participants also emphasised that DAC initiatives should not compete with or duplicate existing programmes, but should facilitate access to existing networks and programmes. In addition, there was agreement that a vehicle for monitoring the adaptation progress of signatories should be established. Further, while there was agreement on focusing on supporting local action, there was strong sentiment that the DAC Secretariat should provide a voice for signatories in the international arena. Based on this input, four core initiatives have been identified as critical next steps in advancing the DAC. The vision for each of these core initiatives is discussed below, along with a summary of the preliminary steps that have been taken to test or establish a foundation for these efforts.

Create Opportunities for Participants through Partnerships

In recent years, a variety of governmental and non-governmental organisations have developed programmes to help cities with adaptation planning and implementation. Managing a programme agenda likely would replicate many of these efforts and consume considerable resources. Therefore, rather than manage large-scale programming, the vision is to create opportunities for signatories to connect with existing programmes that meet their context-specific goals and needs. Specifically, DAC efforts will focus on identifying organisations currently running programmes, enlisting their support, and then helping signatories link to these existing programmes. This means that the DAC does not have to compete for scarce funds or have a large programme staff. It also means that signatories benefit by gaining access to a variety of well-managed programmatic opportunities.

Sponsor Regional Meetings and Training Sessions

Participants at the Implementation Guidance Workshop noted the importance of interacting with other signatories and having at least some type of dedicated activity that is specific to the DAC. One activity that meets this request and could be run by DAC staff is regional meetings for signatories. The specific emphasis and content of these gatherings would vary depending on the needs and skills of participants, but generally would combine information dissemination, training, sharing and networking. While this effort would be developed and implemented under the mantle of the DAC, it will likely draw on the partnerships being established with diverse organisations and other existing regional activities to ensure that appropriate expertise is brought to bear.

1 Fort Lauderdale and Broward County, Florida, became the first USA signatories on 8th November 2013 in response to the invitation to join the core network, and in recognition of their role in creating their regional partnership.

Promote Visibility and Provide a Voice for Cities

A critical issue raised at the Implementation Guidance Workshop was that the DAC should promote visibility of the achievements of signatories and serve as a voice for urban adaptation in the international community. This will ensure that there is increased awareness of the accomplishments that have been made as well as the challenges faced by cities, the urgency for cities to take action, the needs for access to conventional and innovative funding instruments and resources, and to facilitate action and build local capacity.

An ongoing partnership and engagement with ICLEI has provided a baseline for how the DAC can achieve both of these goals. For instance, ICLEI has developed and maintained the DAC website and has taken the lead in communications, such as sending updates to signatories, information to participants at the Implementation Guidance Workshop, and press releases related to DAC initiatives to the media. In the international arena, ICLEI was a key partner in planning for the Durban Local Government Convention and, acting in this role, was integral in drafting the DAC and in highlighting the importance of cities at these international meetings. At its annual Resilient Cities Congress, ICLEI has included the DAC as a key pillar of the congress. At the 2013 congress, a special DAC plenary and signing session was held. This has been followed up by another session at the World Mayors' Summit on Climate Change in Nantes, and another successful session at ICLEI's Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress 2013 in October in Dar es Salaam that realised another 120 signatories.

As these examples highlight, promoting visibility requires a communications hub, where information and achievements are shared both among signatories and with the broader global community, including international organisations, the media, and other cities, on a regular basis. As a means to support signatories, it is envisioned that the communications hub would: host monthly webinars for cities to provide updates on strategies, approaches and implementation experiences or to bring in experts who can provide virtual training sessions; produce a quarterly electronic newsletter highlighting regional and international trends, as well as the most effective and useful practices in urban climate change adaptation; highlight achievements of DAC signatories, especially actions on the part of DAC leaders; and establish an online repository of resources on methods, tools and principles.

To serve as a voice for urban adaptation in the international community, the DAC needs to be recognised and its leadership needs to work with other organisations in establishing a policy dialogue with multilateral institutions such as the UNFCCC and national governments. An essential component of this strategy will be to form strategic alliances with other urban networks of elected local/urban government officials such as ICLEI, UCLG and the C40 cities, in the interest of better serving the needs of its members. It also seems appropriate to develop links and coordinate with the Mexico City Pact in order to ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation are seen as integrated issues that need to be addressed in a coordinated fashion.

Coordinate Reporting and Monitoring of Adaptation Progress

For the DAC to be a meaningful charter, signatories need to demonstrate that they are taking action in accordance with their pledge to adapt. Signatories should show continual progress over time, which could be identified through an annual survey that they are required to complete. The Mexico City Pact offers an example of where a routine survey has been used to monitor signatories. It is envisioned that this would be subcontracted so that DAC staff do not need to spend their time on actual survey effort. For instance, the Carbon Disclosure Project has been successful at surveying cities about their climate efforts, as has the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where two recent surveys were conducted about the climate activities of ICLEI membership. Partnerships with research institutes and universities would further expand the scope of expertise that can support DAC efforts. A further element of this function is to obtain information about signatory achievements that, in turn, will be disseminated to members and others through products produced by the communications hub. The reporting or data collection function could be achieved through partnerships with research bodies such as the Urban Climate Change Research Network, where participants will be conducting research on climate adaptation in cities and then developing case studies. Arrangements could be made for some of the cases to focus on DAC signatory cities and actions so that high quality data are collected and the lessons learned shared with the global community.

Enabling Implementation of Core Initiatives

The four core initiatives associated with implementing the DAC require dedicated management and support. As detailed in the following text, it is envisioned that a secretariat will be established and efforts made to secure resources in order to enable the DAC initiatives and vision to be realised.

One of the aims of the DAC is to communicate the climate change adaptation successes of signatory cities. In this instance, eThekwini Municipality was awarded the Mail & Guardian *Greening the Future Award.*

Establish a Secretariat

A secretariat will be formed to provide a focal point and foundation for action. Given their work to date and the City's role in the DAC in the first instance, the Secretariat will initially be located in Durban, South Africa. This will ensure continuity, credibility and oversight. Eventually, ICLEI has indicated a willingness to host the Secretariat within its organisational structure in the same way it has done for the Mexico City Pact.

Given the envisioned efforts to implement the DAC, the Secretariat will perform six critical functions:

1) Forging new partnerships with existing programmes so signatories are offered a wide range of opportunities;
2) Sponsoring regional workshops;
3) Communicating with signatories and other stakeholders through efforts such as newsletters, email updates, and maintaining a web presence and information repository;
4) Promoting the visibility of the DAC and the achievements of signatory cities in the international arena, via, for example, the Local Government Climate Roadmap, including being present at international conferences such as the COPs and sharing the achievements of signatories at international meetings such as the Resilient Cities Congress;
5) Coordinating, reporting and monitoring functions, including periodic surveys of signatory progress and case study data collection of signatory achievements; and
6) Identifying funding sources and raising funds to support the Secretariat and DAC activities.

It is envisioned that, at the outset, the Secretariat will be staffed by two people who have appropriate expertise, along with a part-time administrative/ web support person. This team will work alongside the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of eThekwini Municipality, which is currently acting as the Secretariat of the DAC and is responsible for providing key technical support to

> "For the DAC to be a meaningful charter, signatories need to demonstrate that they are taking action in accordance with their pledge to adapt."

Mayor Nxumalo in his role as the global champion for the DAC. The DAC Secretariat will be advised by a steering committee comprising elected officials and an advisory group composed of adaptation experts from a wide range of organisations.

Funding and Resource Considerations

Funding is critical for implementing DAC initiatives. Reflecting the core initiatives outlined and the intent to establish a secretariat, these funds will be used to support: 1) two staff members/fund raisers and part-time administrative support at the Secretariat; 2) an annual survey (likely sub-contracted); 3) travel support for Secretariat staff and a few other key individuals (e.g. representatives of eThekwini Municipality) to attend conferences and meetings that will promote visibility of the DAC and its signatories, and to meet with potential partners; and 4) coordinating regional meetings.

DAC Network of Regionally Influential Signatories

Participants at the Implementation Guidance Workshop indicated that peer learning and training are important. Therefore, to test the efficacy of building partnerships that could support signatories, a city-to-city exchange was initiated between Durban, South Africa, and Fort Lauderdale/Broward County, Florida with the support of USAID/ICMA through the CityLinks programme. The exchange began with representatives from Fort Lauderdale meeting with representatives of Durban in Durban, South Africa, in July 2013, to discuss how Fort Lauderdale became part of a broader regional adaptation planning effort, and what Durban might learn from that experience as the city tries to regionalise its adaptation planning efforts. The next phase of this exchange took place in early 2014 (this was originally planned for November 2013, but was delayed by the US government shut down) when Durban representatives will visit Fort Lauderdale to share their experience with an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation. A second city-to-city exchange is planned to take place between Durban and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, again supported by USAID/ICMA, in 2014. This follows Dar es Salaam's successful hosting of the ICLEI Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2013 Congress, and the overwhelming support given by members of the Association for Local Authorities in Tanzania (ALAT) at a special signing ceremony for the DAC.

The results of this pilot demonstrate how partnerships can form the basis of robust forms of support for signatories. By drawing on the expertise and experience of organisations such as CityLinks and IIED, opportunities for learning, networking and training for signatories were readily facilitated. Going forward, it is envisioned that partnerships will be formed with a variety of organisations that are willing to offer dedicated opportunities for signatories. Building on the relationships that have already been established, ongoing alliances with USAID/ICMA and IIED will be cultivated in order to enable a large number of cities to engage in peer-to-peer exchanges and training programmes. Partnerships are envisioned with a variety of other organisations. For instance, a partnership with START (Global Change SysTem for Analysis Research and Training) might facilitate signatories speaking at or attending training and informational workshops they host. Similarly, ICLEI offices around the world could ensure that signatories are sought out and invited to participate in their training and implementation programmes, conferences and workshops.

DAC Facilitation of Adaptation Training

ICCCAD Adaptation Course

A further pilot was implemented through a partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). In this instance, IIED offered to sponsor representatives from signatory cities from developing countries to participate in a training course hosted by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in Dhaka, Bangladesh in August 2013. The first half of the course focused on what city officials need to know about climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. The second half focused on what officials need to do to identify patterns of vulnerability, development adaptation plans/strategies, implement and fund adaptation projects. The following is an account of one of the DAC signatory course participants, Ms. Maggy Machumele of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, South Africa:

"The Greater Tzaneen Municipality comprises both rural and urban areas. Its main economic driver is agriculture, followed by tourism. The course gave me insight as to how climate change will affect our region, in terms of: extreme weather events damaging infrastructure; crop failure and food security impacts; and the exacerbation of water-borne and other vector diseases (e.g. malaria, which was once a problem in the region). The course also enhanced my capacity to conduct a stakeholder analysis to select relevant stakeholders. It has equipped me with the necessary skills to conduct impact and vulnerability assessments with the Greater Tzaneen Municipality (in line with DAC requirements). It has also increased my capacity to develop local adaptation strategies, and to become a resource for the municipality with regard to climate change adaptation knowledge. DAC requirements could be further met as I would be better able to develop adaptation strategies suitable to the area, and ensure that IDP[2] projects are climate-smart. I could assist in integrating adaptation plans into spatial planning, town establishment and infrastructure development initiatives. I could also facilitate the assessment and rehabilitation of wetlands to ensure functioning ecosystems. The programme laid a foundation for the development of a network within the SADC region, and highlighted areas in extant planning tools (e.g. IDP) wherein climate adaptation can be integrated."

2. Integrated Development Plan

Facilitating access to training and education are a major focus of the DAC. In this case, local kids are taught the value of healthy ecosystems in terms of protection from climate change impacts.

DAC Registry: Growing the List of Participating Cities

The DAC was presented at a number of international meetings during 2013, and four special signing ceremonies were held to encourage local government leaders to sign up to the DAC and to commit to its ten principles for climate change action. The year 2013 saw the addition of 149 new signatories.

ICLEI's Fourth Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation

The Fourth Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation (Resilient Cities 2013) was held at the Gustav-Stresseman Institut in Bonn, Germany from the 31st May till the 3rd June 2013. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, as hosts of the event, agreed to include the Durban Adaptation Charter as a key pillar of this annual event. At a special DAC plenary, an update of the DAC was provided and then a special signing ceremony was co-hosted by Mayor of Bonn, Councillor Jürgen Nimptsch and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability President, Mr David Cadman.

By signing the Charter, the eleven cities, representing over 15 million constituents, committed to integrating climate adaptation into urban planning and to bolster their resilience against climate risks. The following cities signed the DAC during this special plenary:

Bonn	Germany
Cochin	India
Shimla	India
Pekalongan	Indonesia
Tevragh-Zeina	Mauritania
Kathmandu	Nepal
Seoul	South Korea
Matale	Sri Lanka
Linköping	Sweden
Seferihisar	Turkey

World Mayors' Summit on Climate Change

A similar special plenary session of the Durban Adaptation Charter was held in Nantes, France, during the World Mayors' Summit on Climate Change from 27th – 28th September 2013. This summit was attended by Mayor Nxumalo, in his capacity as one of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability's Vice-Presidents. The mayors and leaders of the following cities signed the Durban Adaptation Charter:

Swakopmund	Namibia
Municipal Council, Vacoas-Phoenix	Mauritius
Gandon, Saint-Louis	Senegal
Nagpur	India
Male City Council	Republic of Maldives
Quetta Metropolitan Corporation	Pakistan

A successful signing ceremony was conducted during the DAC plenary session of ICLEI's Resilient Cities Congress 2013.

A number of international meetings provided the perfect opportunity to spread the DAC message and grow the signatory database.

ICLEI's Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2013 Congress

From the 29th October to 1st November 2013, Dar es Salaam hosted ICLEI's Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2013 Congress at the Kunduchi Hotel. The congress was attended by 440 delegates from 25 countries, who convened to discuss local climate solutions and challenges to create a more sustainable continent. During a special high level event, Urban Leaders for African Sustainability, the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) and the Mexico City Pact (MCP) were presented. Participants were encouraged to sign both the Charter and the Pact, and the importance of both of these actions against climate change was stressed, as well as the need to align efforts when implementing. At the closing plenary of the Congress, a special DAC and MCP signing ceremony was held where over 120 local governments signed the Durban Adaptation Charter and over 50 signed the Mexico City Pact.

5th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit

The 5th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit was held in the Broward County Convention Centre, Florida, USA, from the 7th – 8th November 2013. The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact was executed by Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties in January 2010 to coordinate mitigation and adaptation activities across county lines. The Compact represents a new form of regional climate governance designed to allow local governments to set the agenda for adaptation while providing an efficient means for state and federal agencies to engage with technical assistance and support[3].

Recognising the regional influence that Broward County and Fort Lauderdale have had in creating a regional compact to address climate change, the DAC Steering Committee invited these local government and county organisations to commit to the DAC's ten principles. A representative of the DAC Steering Committee presented the DAC to the Compact participants at the Summit, and Fort Lauderdale and Broward County became the USA's first signatories to the DAC.

In recognition of this achievement, Fort Lauderdale and Broward County officials were invited to participate in an USAID-funded ICMA CityLinks exchange visit to share knowledge and capacity building around the key themes of developing regional partnerships, water, sea level rise and biodiversity. The first part of this exchange visit was held in Durban during July 2013, and the reciprocal visit took place early in 2014. As a direct result of the exchange visits, the City of Durban has started developing its own regional Compact modelled on that of the SE Florida Climate Compact.

3. http://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/who-we-are/

A very successful signing ceremony was hosted by city leaders of Dar Es Salaam where over 120 new signatories were realised.

Fort Lauderdale and Broward County became the first USA signatory to the DAC in November 2013.

DAC Presentations at International Symposia

START Cities at Risk Workshop

A four-day scoping workshop on cities at risk was convened on 25th – 28th March 2013 at the Blue Waters Hotel in Durban, South Africa. Attended by scientists, municipal representatives, and representatives of relevant African Universities and research centres, the event sought to assess the state of knowledge and capacity needs regarding vulnerability and risk in the urban sector, and to share knowledge, insights and experiences on pathways for effective climate change adaptation and resilience in African cities and urban systems. The four-day workshop created ample opportunity for presentations on a diversity of relevant themes as well as facilitated discussions that helped identify critical needs in knowledge generation and dissemination, capacity development and governance for Africa's urban sector[4].

On behalf of the Mayor of eThekwini Municipality, Councillor James Nxumalo, Councillor Loganathan Naidoo provided the opening welcome. He reminded the meeting that Durban was the host of the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 in 2011, and that a key output of COP17 was the Durban Adaptation Charter. He underscored the centrality of local governments for the climate effort and he called for concerted effort at learning and action by all to address the climate challenge. In a subsequent plenary, Dr David Dodmann (IIED) introduced the Durban Adaptation Charter and outlined its main objectives, and how they related to the Cities at Risk workshop. He stressed the importance of partnerships at all levels of government, city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchange.

Effective Cooperation for a Green Africa: 1st Africa Congress Bremerhaven

Recognising that sustainability will be an essential requirement for African development, the Congress organiser, Klimahaus Bremerhaven 8 ° Ost acknowledged that Africa has great potential to shape the upcoming stages of its development using its people, resource wealth, biodiversity and location.

4. http://start.org/download/2013/durban/car-workshop-report.pdf

International meetings provided an opportunity to showcase municipal projects. In this case the Durban Green Tour visits the Buffelsdraai Reforestation Project.

A similar tour stop provides a learning opportunity around sea level rise at uMdloti Beach in eThekwini Municipality.

> "Africa has great potential to shape the upcoming stages of its development using its people, resource wealth, biodiversity and location."

The 1st Africa Congress Bremerhaven, "ECOGA: Effective Cooperation for a Green Africa" provided a forum for German-African development partnerships and served as a portal for the exchange of knowledge. Contributions at the Congress focused on the realities and perspectives of sustainable development within the field of "green growth" as well as the impacts of climate change and the necessary adaptation strategies[5].

Within a workshop on urban climate adaptation projects in Africa, Dr Sean O'Donoghue presented on the adaptation work of Durban, and this included a brief overview of Durban's experience in leading the Durban Adaptation Charter.

Climate & Development Knowledge Network Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Workshop

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa hosted this three-day workshop as part of their Ecosystems-based approaches to building resilience in urban areas: making the case for a framework for smart decision-making criteria, a CDKN-funded project.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together urban practitioners, policy makers and the scientific community/leading thinkers to draft a 'framework' for smart decision-making criteria around Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and ecosystems management for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). ICLEI's higher level objectives included the need to:

- Improve communication and collaboration between local authorities, researchers, academics, thought leaders and other stakeholders around EbA; and
- Position the workshop as a key enabler in the global operationalisation of the DAC establishing a community of practice amongst signatories, and increasing capacity to prioritise the role of functioning ecosystems. [6]

Ms Sarah Birch, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa, presented the DAC to participants at the workshop. Participants were also given the opportunity to go on the Durban Green Tour, where a number of ecosystem-based adaptation projects were showcased.

5. http://www.klimahaus-bremerhaven.de/africa/
6. http://cdkn.org/project/ecosystems-based-approaches-to-building-resilience-in-urban-areas-making-the-case-for-a-framework-for-smart-decision-making-criteria/

START Cities at Risk Workshop participants.

The sweeping bay of Durban with the city protected by the Bluff in the background.

"The purpose of the workshop was to bring together urban practitioners, policy makers and the scientific community/leading thinkers to draft a 'framework' for smart decision-making criteria around Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and ecosystems management for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)."

Durban Adaptation Charter Publications

IPCC 5th Assessment Report: Durban Case Study

In preparation for the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 5th Assessment Report, eThekwini Municipality officials published a Durban Case Study in Environment and Urbanisation[7]. This publication provided an overview of lessons learnt in the implementation of its Municipal Climate Protection Programme. Included in these lessons was the opportunity that hosting COP17/CMP7 in Durban provided to mainstream adaptation planning, through the signing of the Durban Adaptation Charter. Another outcome of this hosting was the development of Mayor James Nxumalo as a global climate change champion.

Urban Climate Change Research Network's (UCCRN) Second Assessment Report on Climate Change and Cities (ARC 3-2) Initiating Workshop

The UCCRN[8] is a consortium of individuals and institutions dedicated to the analysis of climate change mitigation and adaptation from an urban perspective. UCCRN members are scholars and expert practitioners from developed and developing country cities around the world, and span a broad range of expertise. ARC 3 was UCCRN's first major assessment report. The UCCRN aims to institutionalise a sustained, state-of-the-knowledge assessment process of climate change science, tailored for urban needs, while drawing on the experience of cities.

7. Roberts D and O'Donoghue SH (2013) Urban environmental challenges and climate change action in Durban, South Africa. Environment and Urbanisation 25(2): 299-319.
8. http://uccrn.org/2013/07/19/arc3-2-initiating-workshop-in-new-york-city-september-17-19/

The UCCRN ARC 3-2 Initiating Workshop was the first meeting of members of this network to plan the second assessment report. At this meeting, the Durban Adaptation Charter was presented to participating researchers and practitioners. These authors were encouraged to frame their publications within the context of the ten principles of the Durban Adaptation Charter. At a separate meeting of the lead authors of the ARC 3-2 and members of the DAC core network of regionally influential signatory cites, it was agreed that the DAC would facilitate the distribution of the report to its signatory cities. The Durban Adaptation Charter, and Durban itself, will also be presented as a case study in Chapter 3: *"Mitigation and Adaptation: barriers, bridges and co-benefits"*.

DAC Secretariat Meetings with International Organisations

During December 2013, the DAC Secretariat travelled to Washington DC to attend a series of meetings with various international organisations. The aim of this series of meetings was to introduce the Durban Adaptation Charter to various influential and globally important organisations in order to secure endorsement for the Charter, to investigate funding opportunities for a secretariat for the Charter, and to extend the network of partners contributing towards the implementation of the Charter.

In preparation for these meetings, consideration was given to the branding of the Durban Adaptation Charter, and this resulted in the development of the DAC logo, which is now proudly displayed on the cover page of this report. The shape of the logo is reminiscent of Africa and its place in the globe, and the colours represent the diversity of people and all living things and their connectivity/dependency upon each other.

These meetings were convened by Dr Tony Socci, from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Dr Socci is one of the numerous international partners that volunteer their time and expertise to guide the implementation of the DAC. The delegation included ICLEI Secretary General, Mr Gino van Begin, who has continued to commit ICLEI's support to the implementation of the DAC, especially through the inclusion of the DAC as a key pillar of ICLEI's annual Resilient Cities Congress. ICLEI USA was represented by Mr Michael Schmitz, who also confirmed support for

The DAC Secretariat and ICLEI leaders met with former U.S. Vice-President, Mr Al Gore, in November 2013 to present the DAC.

the DAC, and has expressed an interest in addressing the adaptation needs of US and DAC signatory cities through collaboration.

Meetings held

Formal meetings were held with the USEPA, the Inter-American Development Bank, the US State Department, the World Resources Institute and the World Bank Africa. Due to a weather-related shutdown of the US Federal Government on Tuesday, 10th December, formal meetings scheduled with the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility had to be cancelled. Instead, an informal meeting was held with the appropriate representative from the World Bank.

In addition to the above meetings, an informal meeting was also held on the morning of Thursday, 12th December with former U.S. Vice-President, Mr Al Gore, who is globally respected for his knowledge and long-time advocacy of the need for immediate action to combat climate change. Vice-President Gore's Climate Reality Project has been busy training community leaders throughout the world to inform and educate their communities and colleagues on the implications of climate change, and to urge their communities to take appropriate actions accordingly. At this meeting, Dr Debra Roberts briefed Mr Gore on the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) and its plan for facilitating action among its members and subsequently asked him to consider acknowledging the DAC as an emerging important vehicle for local/urban adaptation governance and facilitating adaptation action among its membership, in the course of his public discourses on climate change.

Outcomes

Generally, the DAC was very well received at all meetings, and there was strong alignment of the DAC objectives with various existing adaptation initiatives being implemented globally. The meetings were very useful and a number of potentially useful collaborations surfaced that could help further the implementation of the DAC. One example of this was with the Inter-American Development Bank, which aims to position itself as the "Adaptation Bank" through its work in central and South America. Given that this year's Conference of the Parties (COP20) will be held in Lima, and given the current paucity of Latin American signatory cities within the DAC, there is excellent potential for penetration of the DAC into Latin America

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CREATE & RETAIN CLIMATE JOBS
NO TO NUCLEAR ENERGY
NITE AGAINST CLI

with the establishment of regional partnerships built around adaptation champion cities throughout the continent.

The US Agency for International Development's representative, Ms Helen Santiago-Fink, reaffirmed the Agency's support for the DAC, and confirmed continued support for the development of African city regional partnerships, through the funding of city-to-city exchange visits, most notably with the return exchange visit between Durban and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, in March 2014, and a round of exchange visits between Durban and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Through the development of regional partnerships, leading adaptation signatory city hubs, like Dar es Salaam, can extend their influence and expertise to neighbouring and regional local government organisations to increase the effectiveness of adaptation action within respective regions. Globally, when a significant number of regional partnerships exist, there will be a critical mass to support effective adaptation action.

Conclusion and Way Forward for 2014

The DAC Secretariat will continue to be housed in Durban during 2014. During this period, the focus on implementation will turn towards developing a system to track and record implementation activities by DAC signatories. There has been some interest from research institutions around this, and it is hoped that a tracking system will be developed where there is not an onerous reporting duty, but where there is alignment with existing reporting efforts. Discussions are being held with ICLEI's Carbonn registry reporting mechanism to include a facility for DAC signatories to report on their implementing progress.

During 2014, the DAC Secretariat, in partnership with a number of research organisations, hopes to develop an annual survey of DAC signatories. This may work in tandem with signatories' reporting requirements, and will be useful in providing an annual snap-shot of adaptation action that can be used to further guide the implementation of the DAC going forward.

The Durban Secretariat will continue to engage with, and grow, the DAC core regional partnership of influential cities as an immediate intervention to promote a regional approach to climate change action. The second part of the Durban-Fort Lauderdale/ Broward County exchange visit, funded by USAID, through CityLinks is planned for March 2014. An initial visit to Dar es Salaam is also planned for the first part of 2014, in order to establish the potential for collaboration and knowledge sharing between this city and Durban. The Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of USAID in this process.

Finally, an important part of the Secretariat's function this year, and building upon lessons learned during the ICCCAD adaptation training pilot project during 2013, will be to investigate the range of funding and training opportunities existing internationally, and then to communicate these opportunities to signatories, so that these officials will be able to further capacitate themselves in order to take effective climate change action.

“The DAC Secretariat will continue to be housed in Durban during 2014. During this period, the focus on implementation will turn towards developing a system to track and record implementation activities by DAC signatories.”

APPENDIX ONE:

Countries featuring Durban Adaptation Charter Signatories

ARGENTINA

BANGLADESH

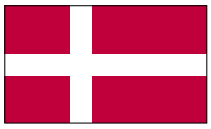
BHUTAN

BOTSWANA

CAMEROON

CANADA

CHILE


DENMARK

ECUADOR

GERMANY

INDIA

INDONESIA

ISRAEL

KENYA

LA REUNION (FRANCE)

MAURITANIA

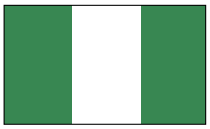
MAURITIUS

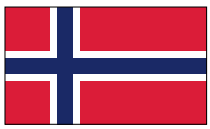
MEXICO

MOZAMBIQUE

NAMIBIA

NEPAL

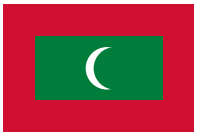

NIGERIA


NORWAY

PAKISTAN

PHILIPPINES

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

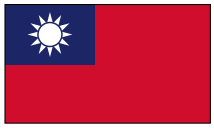

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

SENEGAL

SOUTH AFRICA

SRI LANKA

SWEDEN


TAIWAN

TANZANIA

THAILAND

THE GAMBIA

TURKEY

UGANDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

APPENDIX TWO:

Durban Adaptation Charter

Durban Adaptation Charter for Local Governments as adopted on the 4th December 2011 of the occasion of the "Durban Local Convention: adapting to a changing climate" - towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond -

Preamble

As the local governments of the world gather in Durban, South Africa for COP17-CMP7 at a critical moment in the international climate change negotiations, we recognize the significance of the event by:

Recalling the 1955 Freedom Charter which was the product of South Africans developing their own vision of an alternative society and reaffirming that government is only valid if it follows the will of the people;

Recalling that Agenda 21 identifies local government as the "level of government closest to the people" with a "key role to play in making sustainable development happen";

Noting the 2010 Cochabamba Final Declaration of the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth that acknowledges that the future of humanity is in danger as a result of pursuing a model of limitless growth and that the significant adaptation debt borne by the Global South must be addressed through financial compensation, improved social and environmental justice and an acknowledgement of the importance of ecological integrity.

Noting that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has highlighted the need for more extensive and rapid adaptation than is currently occurring to reduce vulnerability to climate change;

Welcoming the outcome of the Cancun Agreements where local and subnational governments are recognized as "governmental stakeholders" in the global climate regime, as a concrete achievement of two decades of global climate advocacy of local governments;

Recognising that the challenges of climate change, poverty, and ecosystem degradation are rapidly widening the gap between the resource demands of growing populations and associated economies, on the one hand, and a declining natural resource base and carrying capacity on the other;

Recognising that current sustainable development gains, particularly the food-water-energy nexus, are being undermined by the impacts of climate change;

Recognising the disproportionate impact that climate change has on women and the urban and rural poor;

Recognising the intergenerational inequity of indecisive mitigation and adaptation action;

Acknowledging that the world's urban population is growing rapidly; that cities are centres of economic, political and cultural innovation; significant drivers of national economies; and manage vast public resources, infrastructure, and investments;

Acknowledging that globally, local governments play a strategic role in addressing climate change, because of their direct activities in delivering local government functions; their responsibility for laws and regulations that can influence adaptation and mitigation; and their ability to demonstrate leadership and innovative solutions in this area;

Recognising that we need to place adaptation at the core of our future local climate change response plans and urban development strategies and that we need to grasp the economic and social opportunities afforded by sustainable development;

Underlining the value of the efforts that have been built since the Earth Summit, the increased momentum of the Local Government Climate Roadmap since 2007 and the most recent commitments of local government to advance the adaptation agenda at the local level including ***Global Cities Covenant on Climate – the Mexico City Pact, African Mayors' Climate Change Declaration 2011*** and 2011 Bonn Declaration of Mayors;

Supporting the Earth Charter's call for a global partnership to address the multiple ecological, social and economic challenges that face the world.

Clauses

We the signatories to the Durban Adaptation Charter, call upon local and sub-national governments to commit and upscale action to accelerate their adaptation efforts by committing to the following:

1. ***Mainstreaming adaptation as a key informant of all local government development planning***

   We commit to climate change adaptation as a key consideration in all key local government development strategies and spatial development frameworks. Institutionally climate change should be located in a high level integrating office such as the Executive Mayor or City Manager's office of the local authority.

2. ***Understand climate risks through conducting impact and vulnerability assessments***

   We will undertake local level impact and vulnerability assessments to determine the exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of human and natural systems as guided by best available science and traditional knowledge.

3. ***Prepare and implement integrated, inclusive and long-term local adaptation strategies designed to*** reduce vulnerability

   We will prepare evidence-based, locally relevant adaptation strategies and will develop and adopt measures to ensure that the objectives of these strategies are implemented, monitored evaluated and mainstreamed into statutory government planning processes. This planning will guide the development of infrastructure and investments that are climate-smart and environmentally sustainable, and that ensure that urban and rural development provide opportunities for adaptive, sustainable development.

4. ***Ensure that adaptation strategies are aligned with mitigation strategies***

   We will ensure that adaptation actions taken are in synergy with mitigation actions in order to promote cost-effective and sustainable solutions, and limit increases in the production and release of greenhouse gases. Similarly, we will ensure that mitigation activities do not increase vulnerability or result in mal-adaptation.

5. ***Promote the use of adaptation that recognises the needs of vulnerable communities and ensures sustainable local economic development***

   We will ensure that the use of Community Based Adaptation (CBA) is prioritised in order to improve the quality of life in our communities, including the urban and rural poor, who are vulnerable to the harmful impacts of climate change, especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, youth, the elderly, physically and mentally challenged, disadvantaged minority and indigenous populations. We will engage our citizens in our actions to address climate change, and will support proposals from civil society that efficiently and cost-effectively encourage changes in lifestyles that contribute to our local climate actions. We will assess climate adaptation strategies for compatibility with local economic development strategies.

6. ***Prioritise the role of functioning ecosystems as core municipal green infrastructure***

   We will ensure that sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems and the related ecosystem services are used to enable citizens to adapt to the impacts of climate change, which is known as Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA). We will strive to maintain and, enhance resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people to the adverse impacts of climate change.

7. ***Seek the creation of direct access to funding opportunities***

   We will build our climate financing through generating funds internally and through seeking the development of innovative financing mechanisms that enable direct access to national and international funding for our registered adaptation actions. We support the creation of a local adaptation thematic window in the Green Climate Fund, and in so doing, we will seek the support of national governments and multilateral funding institutions.

8. ***To develop an acceptable, robust, transparent, measureable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) register***

   MRV systems should reflect the local context in which adaptation takes place.

9. ***Promote multi-level and integrated governance and advocate for partnerships with sub-national and national governments on local climate action***

   We will ensure cooperation with all levels of government to implement plans and measures at the local level that harness and strengthen approaches to multi-level governance and improve interdepartmental co-operation in order to more effectively address factors reaching beyond local government boundaries, including climate change hazards, trends like urbanisation and migration, and institutional and legal frameworks. In this regard we would support the appropriate representation of local governmental stakeholders, with relevant experience, on the Adaptation Committee of the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

10. Promote partnerships at all levels and city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchange

We agree to seek active partnerships and promote city-to-city cooperation, at regional and global levels including information and knowledge sharing, capacity development and technology transfer in all areas relevant to adaptation and encourage and invite other leaders of local and sub-national governments to join our climate actions.

Presentation

We the signatories of the Durban Adaptation Charter designate the Mayor of Durban to present this Charter to the high level segment of COP17/CMP7 meeting here in Durban to urge Parties to urbanize the global climate agenda and subsequently to present this Charter to the World mayors Council on Climate Change to consider appropriate implementation mechanisms.

- END -

Signed on this day, 4 December 2011 in the City of Durban on the occasion of the 'Durban Local Convention: adapting to a changing climate - towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond' by:

Name .....

Designation .....

Representing .....

Local/ Sub-National Government.....

Country.....

Signature .....

The DAC partnership

ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

cooperative governance & traditional affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Traditional Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ICMA
Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

ICLEI
Local Governments for Sustainability

SALGA
South African Local Government Association

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Climate Protection Branch
Environmental Planning & Climate Protection Department
eThekwini Municipality, City Engineers' Complex

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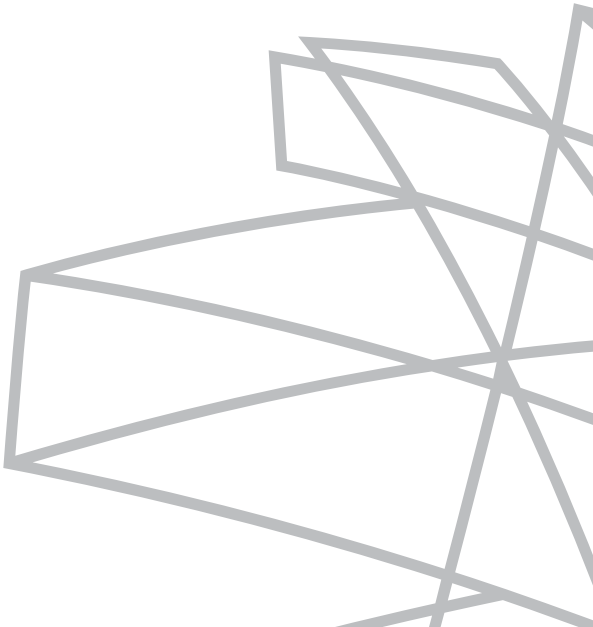
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