

Durban Adaptation Charter

Quarterly Newsletter – January 2015 to March 2015



The Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) commits local governments to local climate action that will assist their communities to respond to and cope with climate change risks thereby reducing vulnerability. This DAC quarterly newsletter provides an overview of DAC activities during the January to March 2015 period.

DAC SIGNATORIES

Encouraging local governments to sign the Charter is a key activity area of the DAC Secretariat. During the last quarter, the DAC Secretariat participated in ICLEI's (Local Governments for Sustainability) first Asian-based Resilient Cities Congress in Bangkok from the 9th - 15th February 2015. The DAC was presented at the event, and a signing ceremony was conducted on the final day with sixteen local governments committing to the DAC, including the first signing from the South Pacific. These new DAC signatories increased the total number, as of the 31st March 2015, to 1,064 signatories. During the Congress, the DAC Secretariat and the Asian Cities Climate Change Response Network (ACCCRN) agreed to collaborate on communications and facilitating local climate change adaptation action in Asia.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Providing support to local governments to implement adaptation actions is a key activity area of the DAC Secretariat.

Adaptation Reporting

During the reporting period, the DAC Secretariat together with ICLEI assisted 49 Tanzanian local government signatories to set up their profiles on ICLEI's carbonn Climate Registry (cCR). Through their profiles these local governments can now report on their adaptation actions via a global platform. Other DAC members that wish to report on their adaptation actions via the cCR can register directly at carbonn.org. Please contact the DAC Secretariat if your municipality needs any support to complete the registration process.

Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Compact (CKZNCCC)

A focus of the DAC Secretariat is supporting the establishment of sub-national compacts. Through these compacts neighbouring local governments can cooperate on climate change adaptation action. The DAC Secretariat has been active in supporting the establishment of the CKZNCCC that is made up of local governments surrounding eThekweni Municipality (the local government of Durban).

During the reporting period the DAC Secretariat provided the following additional support to the CKZNCCC:

- The DAC surveyed twelve CKZNCCC members who expressed a strong interest in the Compact and are looking forward to the long term benefits of their participation in the

Compact. Some local governments felt that the Compact meetings have created better channels for regular knowledge and information sharing between local governments, and although many expressed concerns about capacity, they feel that the Compact will provide a good starting base for future climate change initiatives.

- The DAC Secretariat convened the fourth meeting of the CKZNCCC that was held on the 13th February 2015 in KwaDukuza Municipality. The meeting was attended by five local governments as well as relevant national and provincial government departments and associations. During the meeting the DAC Secretariat committed to reviewing the different climate change support institutions active in KwaZulu-Natal to identify duplications and gaps which might exist in climate change work in the province. In addition participating local governments committed to compiling case studies on the climate change adaptation and mitigation projects they have implemented. The next Compact meeting will be held during May.

DAC COMMUNICATION

Regular communication is an important DAC Secretariat activity that supports local adaptation efforts by providing information on climate change adaptation and alerting signatories to relevant events and funding opportunities. The two communication channels of the DAC are its website and regular emails.

Website

Three news articles were posted on the DAC website during the reporting period:

1. An account of the DAC Secretariat participation at COP20
2. The results of a survey of CKZNCCC members
3. A review of the outcomes of the fourth CKZNCCC meeting

In addition to the three news articles, a case study on the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact was posted on the website. This case study was developed by the DAC with the help of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County of Southeast Florida.

DAC Announcements

A system for sending DAC announcements to DAC stakeholders has been established on the MailChimp electronic newsletter platform. During the reporting period the following announcements were sent out:

Date of email	Items covered	Number of recipients
20/1/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to apply for the International City/County Management Association ICMA Climate Adaptation Partnership Program. 	186
30/1/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to apply for NEPAD Climate Change Fund. 	189
11/2/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to apply for the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat's Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activities Initiative. 	195
12/3/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to nominate ideas for the ADMIRE Project • Invitation to attend 2015 Summer Institute for Disaster and Risk Research from 27th July 27 to 7th August 2015. • A case study on the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. 	195

FUTURE PLANS

During the April- June 2015 quarter:

- DAC Chair and Durban Mayor, Councillor James Nxumalo will be attending ICLEI's World Congress 2015 in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 8th to 12th April.
- The DAC Secretariat will host a USAID-funded delegation of mayors and officials from Pemba and Quelimane, Mozambique in Durban in May 2015 as part of the DAC Regional Hub exchange programme.
- The DAC Secretariat will attend ICLEI's Resilient Cities event taking place from 8th to 10th June 2015 in Bonn, Germany. A meeting of the DAC Steering Committee will also be convened at the Bonn Event.

Finally the DAC Secretariat is pleased to announce that eThekweni Municipality has secured funding to host a combined ICLEI Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress and DAC Southern African Regional Workshop in Durban on 13th -16th October 2015. We are looking forward to welcoming many of our member local governments to Durban for this event. More detailed information on the event will be sent out to member local governments in the near future.

